

Media Release

13 November 2007

Take care during stinger season

The Northern Territory Water Safety Advisory Council is calling on all Territorians to be water safety wise this stinger season.

NT Water Safety Advisory Council Chair, Daphne Read, AO said the recent death of a small child should be a reminder to us all about the dangers.

"It has been over ten years since someone has died in the Northern Territory from a box jellyfish sting and Territorians must not become complacent," she said.

Stings from marine creatures such as box jellyfish and irikundji are the main reason for water related hospital admissions in the Northern Territory and accounted for 42 per cent of the total admissions during 2005/2006.

Beach goers are advised that the 'official' stinger season occurs from 1 October until 31 May.

Ms Read said whilst swimming was not prohibited during the stinger season people should take necessary safety measures.

"The Advisory Council encourages beach goers to wear long sleeved protective clothing such as stinger suits to cover arms, legs and feet.

"People entering the sea, even if it is in the shallow water should have vinegar readily available," Ms Read said.

The last ten stinger deaths in the top end have all been children and parents are reminded about the importance of supervision.

"Supervision is a constant visual of your children and it is imperative to watch your children in and around pools, at the beach and in water ways," Ms Read said.

Beach goers can find out more about water safety by visiting www.watersafety.nt.gov.au or by calling Surf Lifesaving NT on 89856588.

Ends

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***Media please note Ms Read is available for immediate comment**