



Surf Life Saving Australia - Circular

Title:	Use of OP airways in children under 8 years
Document ID:	21/15-16
Audience:	Surf Life Saving members and Australian Lifeguard Service employees
From:	Education Manager, SLSA
Date:	29 September 2015
Subject:	OP airway use in children under 8 years
Summary:	SLSA do not endorse the use of OP airways in children under the age of 8 years

SLSA do **not** endorse the use of OP airways in children under the age of 8 years.

Children under the age of 8 years have a softer palate, which requires a different technique for insertion of OP airways. The technique required to insert an OP airway in children under the age of 8 years is not currently taught in the SLSA Advanced Resuscitation Techniques Certificate, and should therefore only be attempted by medical personnel who have received the appropriate training elsewhere.

Surf Life Saving Clubs, Support Operations and Australian Lifeguard Service are only required to have three sizes of oropharyngeal (OP) airways in their resuscitation kits. These should be a selection of sizes appropriate to the age of patients over 8 years.

For more information on the requirements for OP airways please contact your State Lifesaving Manager.