

Frequently Asked Questions For Parents

Which clubs offer an inclusion program?

Find a full list of clubs offering inclusive programs [here](#).

What activities are offered in an inclusion program?

The program is based around enjoyment, social interaction, water and beach familiarisation and physical activity. Depending on the participant and the club, some participants may wish to get involved in competition, patrolling or club activities.

What ages are the programs offered to?

A child may join an Inclusive Program as soon as they turn five years of age. Most inclusive programs do not have an upper age limit.

Is a parent/caregiver required to participate?

If the participant requires a carer, we encourage them to join in the activities. If the participant is confident participating on their own, then that is okay too. However, a parent/caregiver will be required to stay and watch for the duration of the session.

My child can't swim – can they still participate?

Yes. No activity is compulsory in the inclusive program so your child would never be made to enter the water if they do not want to. However, there is still options for shallow water-based activities where full swimming abilities are not required.

My child is in a wheelchair – can they still participate?

Yes – however some clubs and beaches are more accommodating than others. Get in touch with your club so they can advise what resources are available at the club e.g. beach wheelchairs, beach matting, accessible changing rooms etc.

My child is non-verbal – can they still participate?

Yes – clubs have resources to engage non-verbal children such as image cards and signals. If the child usually has a carer that helps with communication, they are more than welcome to participate too.

What water safety measures are in place?

A Water Safety Supervisor (WSS) is appointed for all water-based activities. The WSS conducts a risk assessment at the start of each session, and monitors conditions throughout – activities are adapted and can be cancelled in hazardous situations.

Water Safety Personnel (WSP) are qualified and proficient lifesavers who provide surveillance and assistance in the water if required with lifesaving equipment. There will be a ratio of 1:1 for Child to Water Safety Personnel.

You will see these members on the beach in their orange high-visibility cap and rash shirt stating 'Water Safety' on the front and back for easy identification.

What if my child wants to participate in Nippers (and not an inclusive program)?

If your child is keen to do Nippers, they are welcome to participate. They may choose to take part in a younger age group based on their skills or that their friends or siblings are part of. Clubs can provide more information on how this can work at their club.

What should I bring to the program?

Togs, towel, drink bottle, sunblock, and a hat. If your child needs noise defenders, special shoes to stop the sand touching their toes, or anything specific then bring that along too.