



Department of Energy, Mines,
Industry Regulation and Safety



Progress report

Local governments' periodic inspections of private swimming pool safety barriers



2023-24

Executive summary

This report has been prepared by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety – Building and Energy Division (Building and Energy).

Drowning is a leading cause of accidental death in children under the age of five (young children). Swimming pools are the most common location of these drowning incidents.

Compliant safety barriers are effective in restricting the unsupervised access of young children into swimming pool areas, reducing the likelihood of a drowning incident.

Local governments are required to inspect the safety barriers of private swimming pools within their districts at intervals not exceeding four years. These inspections monitor the compliance of those safety barriers with building standards. Local governments have powers to assist them in enforcing compliance.

Local governments are required to provide data on their safety barrier inspections before 1 August each year, for the preceding financial year. Building and Energy sent local governments early notification in March 2024 and a formal request for data in June 2024. A reminder was sent to those local governments that had yet to respond in late July 2024.

Of 139 local governments in Western Australia, 134 provided data prior to the preparation of this report. Where a local government's data was not received it has been recorded in the report as 'Data not provided by deadline'. Where responses were received after the deadline, they have been included in the report where possible.

This report is the sixth annual report on the progress of local governments' private swimming pool safety barrier inspection programs and is in response to recommendation 7 of the Ombudsman WA report [Investigation into ways to prevent or reduce deaths of children by drowning](#), tabled in Parliament on 23 November 2017.

In their responses, some local governments detailed reasons why some inspections had not been completed within the four-year maximum period. The most common reasons were difficulties organising access and staff resourcing. These two factors were raised by many local governments.

Summary	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2018-19
Total number of pools	178,104	175,535	170,975	166,709	161,960
Total number pools overdue	1,645	2,722	2,571	2,673	2,545
Total pools overdue %	0.9%	1.6%	1.5%	1.6%	1.6%
Local governments with overdue inspections	54	52	49	54	40
Local governments that did not provide data	5	4	9	14	17

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Local government	Total no. pools	Inspected in 2023/24	Overdue	Overdue Percentage
City of Albany	137	32	1	0.7%
City of Armadale	5,475	1,667	0	0.0%
Shire of Ashburton	526	464	9	1.7%
Shire of Augusta-Margaret River	265	93	0	0.0%
Town of Bassendean	876	28	18	2.1%
City of Bayswater	3,132	854	0	0.0%
City of Belmont	1,388	344	368	26.5%
Shire of Beverley	24	5	1	4.2%
Shire of Boddington	54	15	1	1.9%
Shire of Boyup Brook	5	3	0	0.0%
Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes	51	22	1	2.0%
Shire of Brookton	24	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Broome	1,922	519	0	0.0%
Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup	5	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Bruce Rock	6	6	0	0.0%
City of Bunbury	1,352	125	0	0.0%
City of Busselton	1,963	503	10	0.5%
Town of Cambridge	3,569	557	81	2.3%
City of Canning	6,252	1,963	8	0.1%
Shire of Capel	1,240	332	0	0.0%
Shire of Carnamah	1	0	0	0.0%

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Local government	Total no. pools	Inspected in 2023/24	Overdue	Overdue Percentage
Shire of Carnarvon	77	41	15	19.5%
Shire of Chapman Valley	Data not provided by deadline			
Shire of Chittering	63	50	13	20.6%
Shire of Christmas Island	5	0	0	0.0%
Town of Claremont	893	295	0	0.0%
City of Cockburn	8,358	2,484	4	0.0%
Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands	2	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Collie	333	78	0	0.0%
Shire of Coolgardie	97	13	0	0.0%
Shire of Coorow	32	9	23	71.9%
Shire of Corrigin	16	0	0	0.0%
Town of Cottesloe	790	194	0	0.0%
Shire of Cranbrook	21	3	18	85.7%
Shire of Cuballing	37	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Cue	7	7	0	0.0%
Shire of Cunderdin	11	1	0	0.0%
Shire of Dalwallinu	19	4	3	15.8%
Shire of Dandaragan	71	49	0	0.0%
Shire of Dardanup	942	81	0	0.0%
Shire of Denmark	14	2	0	0.0%
Shire of Derby-West Kimberley	99	3	5	5.1%

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Local government	Total no. pools	Inspected in 2023/24	Overdue	Overdue Percentage
Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup	211	55	51	24.2%
Shire of Dowerin	Data not provided by deadline			
Shire of Dumbleyung	15	0	13	86.7%
Shire of Dundas	Data not provided by deadline			
Town of East Fremantle	697	77	0	0.0%
Shire of East Pilbara	298	2	37	12.4%
Shire of Esperance	142	13	0	0.0%
Shire of Exmouth	186	37	0	0.0%
City of Fremantle	1,071	287	65	6.1%
Shire of Gingin	314	107	135	43.0%
Shire of Gnowangerup	11	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Goomalling	38	33	5	13.2%
City of Gosnells	7,449	2,409	0	0.0%
City of Greater Geraldton	2,131	700	4	0.2%
Shire of Halls Creek	7	7	0	0.0%
Shire of Harvey	1,742	341	0	0.0%
Shire of Irwin	104	45	34	32.7%
Shire of Jerramungup	1	0	0	0.0%
City of Joondalup	23,578	5,652	10	0.0%
City of Kalamunda	5,857	1,957	0	0.0%
City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder	2,279	1,099	238	10.4%

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Local government	Total no. pools	Inspected in 2023/24	Overdue	Overdue Percentage
City of Karratha	2,038	312	0	0.0%
Shire of Katanning	106	6	0	0.0%
Shire of Kellerberrin	20	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Kent	6	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Kojonup	16	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Kondinin	2	2	0	0.0%
Shire of Koorda	15	0	11	73.3%
Shire of Kulin	8	8	0	0.0%
City of Kwinana	1,888	547	4	0.2%
Shire of Lake Grace	10	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Laverton	1	1	0	0.0%
Shire of Leonora	5	1	0	0.0%
City of Mandurah	6,241	1,500	51	0.8%
Shire of Manjimup	67	9	0	0.0%
Shire of Meekatharra	3	0	0	0.0%
City of Melville	10,930	1,529	39	0.4%
Shire of Menzies	0	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Merredin	103	26	6	5.8%
Shire of Mingenew	30	27	3	10.0%
Shire of Moora	76	19	0	0.0%
Shire of Morawa	0	0	0	0.0%

Where total number of pools is recorded as '0' this indicates the local government has no registered pools in its jurisdiction.

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Local government	Total no. pools	Inspected in 2023/24	Overdue	Overdue Percentage
Town of Mosman Park	982	332	5	0.5%
Shire of Mount Magnet	6	6	0	0.0%
Shire of Mount Marshall	5	5	0	0.0%
Shire of Mukinbudin	2	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Mundaring	3,725	1,210	32	0.9%
Shire of Murchison	0	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Murray	1,338	75	0	0.0%
Shire of Nannup	12	1	11	91.7%
Shire of Narembeen	12	12	0	0.0%
Shire of Narrogin	125	0	6	4.8%
City of Nedlands	2,917	757	0	0.0%
Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku	0	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Northam	528	203	0	0.0%
Shire of Northampton	149	44	17	11.4%
Shire of Nungarin	0	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Peppermint Grove	306	144	0	0.0%
Shire of Perenjori	3	3	0	0.0%
City of Perth	221	124	0	0.0%
Shire of Pingelly	34	5	1	2.9%
Shire of Plantagenet	Data not provided by deadline			
Town of Port Hedland	978	643	67	6.9%

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Shire of Quairading	Data not provided by deadline			
Shire of Ravensthorpe	0	0	0	0.0%
City of Rockingham	11,361	2,599	0	0.0%
Shire of Sandstone	3	2	0	0.0%
Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale	2,399	669	43	1.8%
Shire of Shark Bay	7	5	0	0.0%
City of South Perth	2,885	1,147	69	2.4%
City of Stirling	13,389	2,861	9	0.1%
City of Subiaco	799	110	2	0.3%
City of Swan	9,107	2,528	12	0.1%
Shire of Tammin	1	1	0	0.0%
Shire of Three Springs	2	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Toodyay	82	48	34	41.5%
Shire of Trayning	4	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Upper Gascoyne	3	2	0	0.0%
Town of Victoria Park	954	190	0	0.0%
Shire of Victoria Plains	19	1	0	0.0%
City of Vincent	1,217	298	11	0.9%
Shire of Wagin	80	0	19	23.8%
Shire of Wandering	21	1	0	0.0%
City of Wanneroo	15,766	3,625	1	0.0%

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Shire of Waroona	191	34	3	1.6%
Shire of West Arthur	4	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Westonia	0	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Wickepin	3	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Williams	28	2	0	0.0%
Shire of Wiluna	0	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Wongan-Ballidu	34	33	1	2.9%
Shire of Woodanilling	10	0	10	100.0%
Shire of Wyalkatchem	17	15	2	11.8%
Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley	319	63	0	0.0%
Shire of Yalgoo	0	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Yilgarn	32	0	0	0.0%
Shire of York	174	38	5	2.9%
TOTAL:	178,104	45,490	1,645	0.9%

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