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*Please attribute the information below to Shire President, Cr Sam Collard.*

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Changes to Swimming Pool Fencing Regulations in the Shire of Gingin

Amendments to the Building Regulations 2012 (the Regulations) took effect on **23 December 2017** - the changes now require compliant fencing for ALL private swimming pools and spas within the Shire of Gingin.

Previously, Schedule 5 of the Regulations specified that Part 8, Division 2 only applied to town sites in the Shire. Schedule 5 has now been amended to provide that Part 8 Division 2 of the Regulations will now apply to ALL areas of the Shire.

All building permit applications for new pools are now required to comply with the amended Regulations.

The amendment to the Regulations also applies to existing swimming pools within the Shire. The Shire intends to liaise with property owners to ensure that compliant fencing is constructed around existing swimming pools on all properties as soon as possible.

Property owners who have a swimming pool or spa with fencing that has Shire of Gingin building approval and has been included on the four-yearly inspection program will not be affected by the Regulation changes.

From **1 July 2018** the Shire will carry out inspections of all swimming pools and will include them on its four-yearly inspection plan. More information concerning the changes can be found on the Shire's website [www.gingin.wa.gov.au/Building-Services/Swimming-Pool-Fencing-Regulations](http://www.gingin.wa.gov.au/Building-Services/Swimming-Pool-Fencing-Regulations).

In the last six years 13 children under the age of five drowned and 258 children were hospitalised due to swimming pool accidents in Western Australia (Ombudsman WA statistic) leaving many with long term health and emotional effects. The implementation of amendments to the Swimming Pool Fencing Regulations is intended to protect residents and visitors to the Shire.

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