

# Introduction

## **Welcome to the Swim Australia™ Teacher of Babies and Toddlers Accreditation Course**

Following on from the internationally acclaimed Swim Australia™ Teacher Course released after three years development in July 2008, this course is the second in a series of teacher training courses developed by the Australian Swimming Coaches and Teachers Association (ASCTA).

The over whelming success of the Swim Australia™ Teacher course around Australia - and the recognition by the International Federation of Swim Teacher Associations and by groups from the United Kingdom, South Africa, New Zealand, United States, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia and Singapore, with other international swimming organisations showing interest - increased the impetus to develop a Baby and Toddler Teacher accreditation course in a similar format and delivery style.

The benchmark set by the Swim Australia™ Teacher with the theory delivered on a CD ROM with drawings, graphs, colour pictures and video related to the text, randomised questions with corrections and linkages back to the text ensuring Students understand the content 100% and the ability to then print out an acknowledgement of completion with the Student's name were all new benchmarks for the aquatics industry and could not be achieved through text book or classroom theory delivery alone.

The consistency of the course content delivery achieved through delivery by CD ROM has improved the quality assurance of the training provided. Combined with the practical orientation of the Induction Course, it is easy to understand why the satisfaction ratings received from course attendees and employers has been so high.

More accreditation courses have been developed in specialist areas of aquatics for Learners with Disability, Adolescents and Adults,

## Competitive Swimming and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities.

The Swim Australia™ Teacher of Babies and Toddlers primarily focuses on water familiarisation and the acquisition of basic swimming and water safety skills for dependent learners from birth to 36 months (as a guide – depending on developmental readiness and experience).

Most young Children much beyond 36 months of age are in independent learning situations where Teachers are educating directly to the young Child without the presence of the Caregiver in the water. The Swim Australia Teacher course covers these independent learners.

The Course Development Manager charged with taking this project from a blank canvas to what you see before you was Ross Gage.

The course was a major collaboration amongst a range of internationally recognised Contributors.

- Laurie Lawrence
- Rob McKay (USA)
- Kathy McKay (USA)
- Barb Nolan
- Jenny McPhail (NZ)
- Dave DuBois (USA)
- Ross Gage
- David Speechley
- Julie Zancanaro
- Naomi Smith
- Chris Smith

Contributions were also received from Tracey Ayton, Shawn Read and the United States Swim Schools Association.

Editing and continuity of the course content was undertaken by David and Julie Speechley (ASCTA)

The Swim Australia Teacher of Babies and Toddlers Course administration was developed and is being administered on an ongoing basis by **ascta**ACCREDITATION, the education division of ASCTA.

There may be many "right" answers to questions such as how to submerge a Baby, or how to support a young Child in a back float. The Units of Study provided on this CD ROM will provide you with successful examples, recognising that there is some variance in teaching methods. During the Practical Induction and On the Job Training phases, you will encounter further examples of teaching variations.

In some instances, aspects of teaching Babies and Toddlers has been mentioned more than once in a number of Units of Study to reinforce the particular importance of the item or so that each Unit of Study can be used in a 'stand alone" manner for a particular topic of study.

The Swim Australia Teacher of Babies and Toddlers Course will convey parameters to teach within, so although methods may differ, they will still fall within a basic set of guidelines.

ASCTA has also given an ongoing commitment to renewal and development of teaching resources. To this end we encourage contributions, suggestions and improvements. These are peer reviewed and where suitable included in regularly updated future versions. This CD is the 4th version and the first full revision since the courses launch in 2009.

Ross Gage October 2011.