

26 November 2025

Committee Secretariat
Transport and Infrastructure Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington
Via email: ti.legislation@parliament.govt.nz

Re: Life Jackets for Children and Young Persons Bill

On behalf of the Swimming Pool & Spa Association (SPASA) which represents the swimming pool and spa industry in New Zealand and Australia, we would like to provide our support for this Bill. SPASA acknowledges the importance of water safety in all forms and is a member of WaterSafetyNZ.

SPASA considers this a real opportunity to strengthen the national rules and remove the differences in regional rules which make it hard for people to understand their responsibilities. Introducing an easy-to-follow national law makes responsibilities clear for the whole community.

If passed, this new legislation and regulation should then be supported by broad community education, and allow for a healthy transition period which supports people to achieve compliance with the changes.

We know from the data that lifejackets, or personal flotation devices (PFD) are most effective when they are worn at all times. Legislating that all passengers on recreational craft must wear an appropriate PFD would help people of all ages to change their behaviour. Choosing to always wear a lifejacket can save lives.

SPASA welcomes the Bill which addresses the confusing patchwork of PFD rules across the different regions in New Zealand, and supports the proposal to introduce a single national rule making lifejackets mandatory for people of all ages on all recreational craft.

Consideration of the relevant standards to be adopted for PFDs is warranted, noting the recent adoption in Australia of AS4758, or another acceptable international standard.

Wearing a lifejacket should be as normal as wearing a seatbelt, wearing a helmet when cycling, or fencing your swimming pool.

We look forward to positive progress of the Bill. Should you wish to discuss SPASA's position further please contact Dan Boyd, Regional Manager – New Zealand via email: dan@spasa.com.au

Yours sincerely,



Kristin Brookfield
Chief Executive Officer