



# **SURF LIFE SAVING AUSTRALIA**

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

### **CROCODILE SAFETY**

<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>
<b>1.11</b>
<b>JULY</b>
<b>2006</b>

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This policy provides a guide to recognising and overcoming risks associated with the provision of Surf Life Saving Services in regions which crocodiles may inhabit.

#### **AIM**

This policy aims to: -

- i. Help identify existing and potential health and safety issues.
- ii. Raise the overall awareness of hazard identification and risk reduction.
- iii. Assist in establishing risk management procedures.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of this document the word crocodile is used in the broad sense to include all crocodiles, alligator, caimans, gharials.

#### **ACTIONS ON SIGHTING**

In the event of a crocodile sighting the following precautions are recommended: -

- i. Request all swimmers to leave the water.
- ii. Close the beach to all swimming and post appropriate signage (if specific signage is not available standard "no swimming" and "danger" signs may be utilised).
- iii. Advise beach visitors to remain clear of the waters edge.
- iv. Do not attempt to kill, capture or injure the animal.
- v. Record as much detail regarding the sighting as possible
- vi. Contact the Department of Environment as soon as possible.

#### **ACTIONS IN EVENT OF CROCODILE ATTACK**

Shark or crocodile attack and powerboat injuries can result in massive tissue damage and severe blood loss. The following general treatment applies (specific information is contained within the SLSA training manual): -

- i. Bring the patient to the beach as quickly as possible.
- ii. Apply immediate first aid.
- iii. Co-ordinate hospital transport and pre-hospital emergency care.
- iv. Follow precautions outlined in 'Action on Sighting'.

#### **FUTHER ADVICE AND INFORMATION**

If you require further advice or assistance please contact Surf Life Saving Australia on (02) 9300 4000 or your state centre:

New South Wales (02) 9984 7188

Queensland (07) 3846 8000

Victoria (03) 9534 8201

South Australia (08) 8356 5544

Western Australia (03) 9244 1222

Tasmania (03) 6272 7788

Northern Territory (08) 8941 3501