

# Know Your Beach

## 11. LOST CHILDREN AT THE BEACH

Please swim only in patrolled areas and encourage children to never swim alone. Surf lifesavers are there to help you and your children stay safer on our beaches.



### PREVENTION

- Supervision of children is vital and the best form of supervision at the beach is to actively interact with your children.
- Bright lycra style swimming suits make good sun sense and are easy to see.
- Identify an easy to find point on the beach that the child can go to if you become separated (eg. the patrol shelter).
- Always accompany your child to the toilet. The public toilets at Jan Juc are located at the bottom of the three tiered car park. The stairs next to the creek will lead you to them.

### IF SEPARATED

- Do not panic, hundreds of children are reported lost every year, usually they are found walking along the beach.
- Quickly check the immediate area then notify the lifesavers/lifeguards on duty.
- If no lifesavers are on duty, then the police can be contacted on 5261 6058.
- The lifesavers/lifeguards will need some information from you such as:
  - A description (ie. age, clothing, name, hair colour)
  - The time the child was last seen (this helps determine how far the child may have gone)
  - Any medical problems the child may have.
- Most children are usually found very quickly, however sometimes a wider search is needed. This may include:
  - The car
  - The home/unit
  - Surrounding parklands/playgrounds
  - A further expanse of the beach (children have been known to walk some distance).
- Stay calm and assist the lifesavers/lifeguards or Police as requested. They will be doing everything they can to help you.