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## Early transition to aquatic centre learn-to-swim programmes

Toddlers, young people and others learning to swim are being offered an early transition to the learn-to-swim classes and education programmes that will be a feature of the new Caroline Bay Aquatic Centre – even before it opens.

The Timaru District Council is to commence the learn-to-swim classes from early January 2012 and will introduce the feature aquatic centre programmes initially at Century Pool and later transferring to the new aquatic centre.

The learn-to-swim programme and facilities are seen as a key feature of the new aquatic centre with a clearly identified need in the community.

Council district services manager Ashley Harper said learning to swim was a priority programme and one of the strongest drivers for the new aquatic centre.

“Our death-by-drowning statistics as a country are a concern. Water Safety New Zealand figures just released show the national drowning toll for the year to date – January through to the end July – now stands at 71, 16 more drowning victims when compared with the same period in 2010,” Mr Harper said.

“As a council, we see the need to introduce our new programmes as soon as possible and the summer swim season early next year provides this opportunity.

“The new programmes will transfer to the new venue seamlessly and we are excited about what we are going to be able to offer.

“We also intend to widen the learn-to-swim programmes to the regional pools in Pleasant Point, Geraldine and Temuka once the new aquatic centre sessions have become established,” Mr Harper said.

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