FAQs re the Swim Australia™ Teacher (SAT) accreditation qualification

Q. Does the SAT qualification allow the teacher to deliver GST free ‘swimming, water safety, and personal survival skills lessons’?
A. YES. The SAT qualification contains all the competencies required* by the Federal Government for this.

Q. Can I obtain Professional Indemnity Insurance with the SAT qualification?
A. YES. Teachers may join ascta to take advantage of ASCTA-Marsh Insurance Broker’s low cost insurance, call 1300 305 575 for insurance advice. ASCTA-Marsh issues a policy in the name of the teacher including both $10M public liability and $10M professional indemnity limits. The SAT qualification is recognised by ASCTA-Marsh for Swim School’s Public Liability Insurance.

Q. Why isn’t CPR required as part of the SAT qualification course?
A. Federal Government approved vocational competencies for Swim Teachers do not include CPR. A similar situation has existed for many years with swimming coaching accreditation. The SAT qualifications must be renewed every four years, but all CPR qualifications (regardless of the training provider) must be renewed annually. CPR is recognised by ascta as an essential skill and component of one’s risk management strategy. In essence, annual renewal of CPR competency is a workplace safety decision. Some Swim Schools may require it – others not – depending on their risk management plan. It makes sense to keep them separate – thus not falling into the dangerous trap of assuming that CPR is current just because one’s teaching qualification hasn’t reached its expiry date.

Q. Who recognises the SAT qualification?
A. The Federal Government! Under the Federal Government’s Vocational Training Act, competencies are established by the relevant industry training package; in this case the National Community Recreation Industry. Competencies determine one’s qualification and must be recognised by all government agencies and employers. There are several organisations (ascta is one of them) that package the required vocational competencies into a qualification course.

Of course the Australian Swimming Coaches and Teachers Association (ascta), as the owners of the course, are committed to maximising its recognition – as do its divisions Swim Australia and SwimEd. The SAT qualification is endorsed by Swimming Australia Ltd. (SAL) – the governing body for the sport in Australia. ascta is a Stakeholder in SAL; as are the State Swimming Associations and the Australian Swimmer’s Association.

The International Federation of Swimming Teachers Associations (IFSTA) recognises the SAT qualification internationally. This also provides for a unique relationship with other member organisations; for example, Teacher of Swimming Associations in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Holland, Germany, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the United States Swim Schools Association. SAT qualification holders may apply for IFSTA recognition if they work in a member country.

Q. What else is special about the SAT course?
A. The SAT Course ‘theory component’ is available on CD-ROM. This gives the student access to video clips, colour photos, and hundreds of equivalent ‘pages’ of text that a book or training manual could never match. Self paced learning eliminates non-essential contact time and guides the student to acquiring the underpinning knowledge base. The ‘contact component’ (i.e. face-to-face instruction at an aquatic venue) of the course can be much more ‘hands on’ because the theory has already been assessed.

For those entering the profession

Q. I’d like to attend a Swim Australia™ Teacher course. How do I enrol?
A. Go to www.swimed.com/index_files/SATCalendar.htm The Course Calendar has the Course Administrator’s contact details. Contact the Course Administrator to request a specific course enrolment. Please note, most course enrolments close one week prior to the course commencement so it’s important to enrol early to allow time for completion of the CD ROM theory study.

Q. What does the course price cover?
The recommended retail price for the Swim Australia™ Teacher course is $200 to $250 per Student. This covers:
- necessary course resources including the SAT Course CD ROM and relevant paperwork
- pool admission
- Practical Induction course
- Insurance cover whilst undertaking course requirements and for 28 days after accreditation is granted
Q. Most of the Swim Australia™ Teacher courses listed on the Course Calendar are 8 hours in length? How do you complete a course in such a short time?
A. Most courses utilise the Swim Australia™ Teacher course CD ROM. In this instance, once a Student enrols, the Course Administrator can send out a CD ROM – the learning process can begin as soon as possible. Working through the questions following each section the student must answer correctly or be referred back to the relevant section for further study. Prior to attendance at the Practical Induction session the student has mastered the theory side of his/her training. Depending on prior knowledge, this may take up to 30 hours of independent study. Students are also required to observe five hours of swimming lessons prior to attending their Induction. The Induction highlights practical components of teaching swimming and water safety. Following the course Students must complete practical hours in a swim school setting. The 8 hour course is a minimum, but depending on competency, the overall time to complete a qualification can be substantial.

Q. If I’m studying the theory component of the Swim Australia™ Teacher course at home in my own time, how do I know that I’ve studied adequately to set myself on the path to becoming a great swimming and water safety teacher?
A. The SAT CD ROM requires Students to gain a 100% theory pass mark before proceeding onto the next phase of the course. If Students incorrectly answer a question, the CD ROM refers the Student back to the relevant section to study further, before resuming and re-answering the question. The CD ROM was developed by industry experts, has colour photos and videos of teaching sequences and was reviewed by experienced learn-to-swim and water safety Teachers so every Swim Australia™ Teacher will graduate with a wide range of knowledge. A Theory Acknowledgement Certificate with the Student’s name may be printed once sections have been fully completed.

Q. My friend is completing the Swim Australia™ Teacher course at the same time as me. Can’t we just copy each other’s answers?
A. Every Student receives a different mix of randomly selected questions from the CD ROM program. Sufficient variation is introduced to ensure each student has a thorough knowledge of each unit of study. If you undertake the questions a second time they will differ from the first round.

Q. I’ve attended other courses having large enrolments, but I’d prefer small group instruction. Will I have the opportunity to chat with the Course Presenters and ask questions? What is the maximum number in a Swim Australia™ Teacher course?
A. ascta recognises the value that small course numbers and personal instruction can offer; consequently, the maximum number of students in a Swim Australia™ Teacher course is 19. If additional students have enrolled, another Course Presenter will be added or no more enrolments will be accepted.

Q. I have attended courses where the Course Presenter may have the required knowledge, but has limited practical experience. Who presents the Swim Australia™ Teacher course?
A. Swim Australia™ Teacher Course Presenters are provided with the Swim Australia™ Teacher Course Presenter Kit; all have worked extensively in the industry, hold training and assessing qualifications and are keen to pass on their wealth of knowledge to help improve the standard of swimming teachers.

Q. Who decides if a Student is competent to teach?
A. On the Job Competency Assessment must be undertaken and signed off by a Swim Australia™ Teacher Course Presenter and Assessor or by recommendation from a Swim School Manager, Swimming Club President, School Principal or Physical Education Teacher. A recommendation regarding a student’s competence must be submitted as per certain guidelines, and is subject to review by a qualified assessor.

Q. As I become more experienced teaching I would like to specialise in teaching Infants? How do I become qualified?
The Australian Swimming Coaches & Teachers Association (ascta) will develop specialist courses for the teaching of Infants, Persons with Special Needs, Adults, etc. These programs will be released over the next few years.

Q. I have been teaching swimming and have attended conventions and other professional development activities. Do I have to sit through the whole SAT course if I already have the required skills?

Accreditation costs (upon successful completion - valid for 4 years) and issuing of certificate and Statement of Attainment for vocational competencies

- Introductory ascta teacher ‘tier 3’ membership
- secure storage of student records for 30 years as required by the Australian Quality Training Framework

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No. Because assessment is competency based, you may be able to attain the standard required in a much shorter period of time. Studying the SAT Course CD ROM and successfully completing the assessment questions, along with documentation of practical experience and evidence of vocational competencies completed (i.e. having a Statement of Attainment issued by a Registered Training Organisation) will allow you to complete a Recognition of Current Competency (RCC) application.

Q. How long is the Swim Australia™ Teacher qualification valid for?
A. 4 years! The same time period recognised by the Australian Sports Commission and Swimming Australia Ltd. for coaching qualifications.

Q. How do I reaccredit my Swim Australia™ Teacher certificate?
A. Accreditation must be renewed every 4 years. Six months prior to expiration you will be sent a reminder notice detailing your options, they include:
   - If you have been an ascta member continuously during the 4 year period, you pay a small administration fee to renew your qualification, or
   - Without continuous ascta membership you pay a somewhat larger administration fee and must document professional development activities undertaken during the 4 year period.

Q. Does the Swim Australia™ Teacher course advocate a certain way of teaching?
A. The course promotes sound scientific principles and accepted pedagogy as a best practice model. The SAT Course CD ROM demonstrates how industry professionals operate and the Practical Induction session shows you how to translate theory into practice. On the Job training gives you an opportunity to fine-tune your teaching skills. Whilst certain methods are promoted, you should have a sound background from which to make teaching decisions. You will be able to develop a ‘style’ that is consistent with the best practice model, but suits your teaching environment and individual talents.

Already have a qualification?

Q. I already have a current Austswim Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety qualification. Can this be used as credit toward the SAT qualification?
A. YES. You have two options, depending upon when your Austswim qualification expires. Both options are extremely affordable and provide wonderful benefits.
   1. If your qualification has more than 6 months remaining, complete the relevant SAT RCC application (administration fee of $20 applies)
   2. If your qualification has less than 6 months remaining, complete the relevant SAT RCC application (fee of $90 applies)
In both instances, a successful SAT RCC application will give you:
   a. 4 years of SAT accreditation
   b. SAT course CD-ROM (a highly valuable teaching resource)
   c. complimentary Tier-3 ascta Teacher Membership until 30th June if you are not already an ascta member
   d. access to the ASCTA-Marshal Insurance plan (if you require insurance)
Note. For a period of time you may have two qualifications – both recognised by the Federal Government. When each qualification expires, it’s your decision to renew it or not.. You can download the Recognition of Current Competency (RCC) Application from [www.swimed.com/index_files/SATRCC.pdf](http://www.swimed.com/index_files/SATRCC.pdf)

Becoming more involved

Q. How can I become a Swim Australia™ Course Presenter?
A. If you have a minimum 5 years industry experience and hold a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment or equivalent, contact SwimEd for a Course Presenter’s application. This application is FREE.

Q. How can I become a Swim Australia™ Course Administrator?
A. If you feel you have the organisational skills to oversee course delivery, contact SwimEd for further information.
Swim School Registration

Q. How does Swim Australia™ Teacher Accreditation tie in with my Swim School’s Registration with Swim Australia?
A. Swim Australia registered Swim Schools promote best practice by employing only qualified teachers. A teacher’s qualifications must contain all six of the core competencies required by the Federal Government. Both the Swim Australia™ Teacher and Austswim qualifications satisfy this requirement.

*Swim School operators and teachers should review the Australian Tax Office requirements regarding the content of lessons eligible for GST exemption, please visit
The following site will provide further details, for more information contact the Australian Taxation Office directly.