

Public Pools (Hydrotherapy Pool Fees) Guidelines 2025 (No 1)*

Notifiable Instrument - NI2025-481

Made under the

Public Pools Act 2015, section 17 (Pool fees guidelines-category 1 facilities)

1. Name of Guideline

The *Public Pools (Hydrotherapy Pool Fees) Guidelines 2025 (No 1)* (the Guidelines) are issued under section 17 of the *Public Pools Act 2015* (the Act) for Category 1 facilities and apply to those facilities where a fee determination has not been made under section 54 of the Act.

2. Commencement

This guideline commences the day after its notification day.

Note: The naming and commencement provisions automatically commence on the notification day (see Legislation Act, s 75 (1)).

3. Determination

To incorporate the newly constructed Hydrotherapy Pool Fees into the Pool Fee Guidelines (the Guidelines) 2025.

4. Definitions

The following fee definitions apply to all Category 1 facilities listed in Section 1

<i>Standard</i>	a person aged 16 years and over
<i>Concession</i>	applies to a child, holders of Health Care Cards, Veterans Cards, Full Time Student Cards and Seniors.
<i>Child</i>	a person aged 3 - 15 years of age
<i>Senior</i>	a person over 60 years of age and holds a valid ACT Seniors Card
<i>Pensioner</i>	applies to a person holding a Pensioner Concession Card.

*Name amended under Legislation Act, s 60

<i>Centre Based Community Club Members</i>	applies to members of centre-based community not for profit sport and recreation clubs, which have a lane hire agreement in place with the Category 1 facility.
<i>Disability</i>	applies to holders of Disability Support Pension (DSP) Cards, Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) Cards or any person with a disability who is able to establish disability status (i.e. through a disability pension card, or a special school card which identifies the individual as having a disability).
<i>Companion</i>	a paid or unpaid assistant or carer, who accompanies a person with a Disability who is a Companion Card holder.
<i>Spectator</i>	a person who is accompanying / watching a school carnival or event at the facility, but is not using the pool facilities. The spectator category does not apply for casual entry / recreational swimming.
<i>Non-member Crèche</i>	Care provided within the facility to a child of a parent/guardian who is not a member of the facility, but is using the pool/health club services.
<i>Hydrotherapy Group</i>	Applies to the bookings made by Not-for-profit (NFP): community groups who wish to book out a one (1) hour session in the hydrotherapy pool.

5. Reporting Requirements

5.1 Annual Review

The operators of each Category 1 facility are obligated to undertake an annual fees review which will consider adjustments based on the Wage Price Index (WPI) – Australia original indexes as at December of each year. Any proposed adjustments above WPI will require Cabinet approval. The fees review will be required to adhere to the Guidelines.

5.2 Proposed Fees Schedule

The ACT Government sets the maximum amount that may be applied to all core fees for Category 1 facilities and the operator sets all non-core fees. The ACT Government will consider the proposed fees schedules and business cases before advising each of the operators of the fees to apply on or after 1 October of the following financial year (and from 1 October for the seasonal Category 1 facilities).

Any new fees which are related to the aquatic facilities (i.e. pools and water play parks) must be put to the Territory for determination whether it is a core or non-core fee, prior to it being implemented.

6. Review of Fees

6.1 Comparative Analysis

To inform the Cabinet process for any increase in fees above WPI, the ACT Government will complete a comparative analysis of the fees with other local and like pool facilities around Australia. The comparative analysis must consider a minimum of five pool facilities, which are not Category 1 facilities.

6.2 Stakeholder Review

On completion of the comparative analysis, the ACT Government will consult with key stakeholders and the community in relation to any proposed fee increases which are above WPI. The key stakeholders to be consulted include, but are not limited to:

- Category 1 facility operators
- Community swim clubs

7. Setting of Fees

Fees will be set on an annual basis and the commencement of new fee schedules is to occur on or after 1 October each year. This is subject to the Sport and Recreation Minister's approval and a four (4) week notice period for any changes to fees.

The fees endorsed by the Minister for Sport and Recreation set out the maximum fees to be applied for the respective service. Lower fees may be offered with the approval of the ACT Government. However, the ACT Government will not share responsibility for any impact on the contract as a result of waiving or discounting fees.

The ACT Government and operators will publicise new fees schedules at least four (4) weeks prior to the date of implementation. This includes direct communication to customers on databases (members and learn to swim customers), display in prominent positions in the facility and promotion via websites and social media as appropriate.

Category 1 facility operators will discuss irregular requests for hire of facilities or activities (i.e. outside normal hours of operation, entire facility bookings, corporate events, etc) with the ACT Government prior to accepting the request or quoting fees.

The Guidelines will be subject to periodic review as may be required.

8. Details

A number of services available at Category 1 facilities are considered core services. These fees are for the Hydrotherapy Pool only. These core services are as follows;

1. Hydrotherapy Pool.

User	Value (includes cost of admission)
Standard	Adult Standard Hydrotherapy entry
Concession	70% of Standard Hydrotherapy fee
Pensioner	50% of Standard Hydrotherapy fee
Disability Support Pensioner	Free
Pool Hire (per hour)	Relative Value
Commercial – Entire Pool	Set by Operator
Community – non-for-profit entities.	\$45.40

2. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

11.1 Infrastructure Canberra (iCBR)

iCBR is responsible for the review of fees for the Category 1 facilities, the comparative analysis of fees and the preparation of recommendations for the proposed fees annually.

11.2 Operators

The operators are responsible for completing an annual review of non-core fees and submitting an annual fees proposal to iCBR. Once the core fees have been approved, the operators are required to advertise the new fees at least four (4) weeks before they are implemented. Operators are also responsible for setting non-core fees

11.3 Minister for Sport and Recreation

The Minister for Sport and Recreation is responsible for approving the maximum core fees that will apply to Category 1 facilities if a fee determination has not been made under section 54 of the Act for that facility.

3. POOL FEES

Fee	2024-25	2025-2026
Standard Hydrotherapy Pool	N/A	\$15.00
Concession Hydrotherapy Pool	N/A	\$10.50
Pensioner Hydrotherapy Pool	N/A	\$7.50
Commercial – Entire Pool	N/A	Set by Operator
Community – non-for-profit entities.	N/A	\$45.40

Yvette Berry
Minister for Sport and Recreation

Date: 21 August 2025