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# MONEY



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# WEAKING



# FREESTYLE | Julie Stevens is ahead by lengths In the swim of success

**JULIE Stevens** is chief executive officer for State Swim Swimming Schools in Adelaide and Victoria.

Her major investment goals are to pay off her mortgage, purchase more property and be in a position to snap up more business interests should they present themselves.

**What was your first investment and how did it go?**

My first house. In hindsight, I should have held on to it longer as I would have done quite nicely in the recent property boom.

**What is your favourite type of investment (eg shares, property, cash) and why?**

Shares, as this is where I have had most experience business-wise, but I am keen to purchase more property.

**What is the best investment advice you have received and who was it from?**

From my business partner and close friend Paul Mason. At the time, I was thinking of reducing the shareholding I was going to take in my first swim school - he convinced me not to and I am grateful for that.

**How do you approach risk?**

I try to gather as much information as I possibly can to minimise risk as well as heed sound financial advice. I also make sure I can live with the "worse-case scenario" - if I can't do this, then I don't take the risk.

**What has been your best-performing investment?**

My first business investment - State Swim Unley.

**And the worst?**

A small investment in Telstra shares - thank goodness it was small.

**Where do you get your information about investing?**

Either from within the industry that I work in or from my financial adviser. I like to read as well, so business magazines and the news-  
papers are also good resources.



**JUST THE JOB:** Julie Stevens keeps herself busy at Unley pool.

Picture: MIKE BUR



## MY INVESTMENTS

market, I think property is the safest option. It will also assist me with my superannuation goal.

**What about managed funds?**

I prefer to invest my money in other ways - I guess I prefer to have

investment - the risk is high and I think there are far better ways of investing my money.

**And a financial planner?**

Yes, I have been with Hood Sweeney for many years. I have benefited enormously by having financial advice there.

**Do you make extra repayments off your mortgage?**

Absolutely. It is important for me that I commit as much as possible to reducing the "Australian dream"

**How do you feel about insurance and disability insurance?**

Absolute essentials for me, just can't take this sort of risk with your livelihood.

**Do you have a personal financial budget and do you stick to it?**

No, but I'm reasonably careful with what I spend.

**What's the most extravagant purchase you have made?**

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