



Mum's peace of mind

Boys learn to swim

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WHEN her son **Michael** nearly drowned in a swimming pool last year, **Heidi Curry** realised learning to swim was a must for her two sons.

But the cost of lessons was just out of reach for the family from Elizabeth Downs.

Now a new \$200,000 partnership between State Swim and The Smith Family is allowing Mrs Curry's sons **Jacob**, 11, and Michael, 9, to learn to swim for free.

"The free swimming lessons have been awesome," Mrs Curry said.

"It has given the boys a lot of confidence and it has also improved

their fitness."

Jacob and Michael are two of 80 northern-suburbs children receiving a free weekly swimming lesson at the Clovercrest and Golden Grove State Swim centres.

"After a lifeguard had to jump in and save Michael last year, I have come to realise how important it is for all kids to learn how to swim," Mrs Curry said. "Now knowing they are learning to swim gives me a lot of peace of mind."

The Smith Family programs manager **Richard Melvill** said more than 220 children would participate in the program statewide.

"All the children who are partic-

ipating are children who are at a significant financial disadvantage," Mr Melvill said

"Swimming lessons can cost a lot of money and that often puts them out of reach of some families."

State Swim managing director **Paul Mason** said all children should have the opportunity to learn how to swim. "A lot of the kids would not have had the opportunity to learn to swim if it weren't for this program," Mr Mason said.

"It's important for kids to learn because of safety and fitness."

The swimming program will run until next year.



AWESOME: Swimming lessons are giving Jacob and Michael Curry confidence in the pool