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Dubai The Minister of Education, Skills and Workforce Participation, State Government of Victoria, Australia, is on a unique mission to ensure that people in the UAE and surrounding countries learn swimming the right way.

"There are many children and families living in the UAE and the other Gulf states who swim. But if you don't swim safely then a very pleasurable experience can turn into a dangerous one," commented Minister Bronwyn Pike.

Pike was at the Dubai British School to launch the AUSTSWIM Training Package, a handy text book for teaching swimming and water safety.

The book was launched in the presence of John Butler, Commissioner, Middle East and North Africa, State Government of Victoria, and Gabrielle Troon, Manager, Education Services, State Government of Victoria.

"Water safety is an important issue and I am pleased to see this tremendously successful AUSTSWIM programme coming to the Middle East," Pike said.

The book was launched alongside the first course for swimming teachers that was held at the Dubai British School yesterday under the guidance of Kirk Marks, Chairman, AUSTSWIM (Australian Council for the Teaching of Swimming and Safety). A total of 34 participants, including one from Luxembourg, are attending this inaugural course.

"The AUSTSWIM team has 30 years of experience in teaching kids water safety and it is important that these children really enjoy the water. This is a comprehensive manual developed to teach and train people to swim safely. The more people in the community that learn the proper way to swim the better it is for society at large," Pike said.

By Alan Gomes

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