

Flagstaff Hill footy skipper saves drowning boy

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HERO: Flagstaff Hill's Peter McMaster reflects on the rescue at Marion's State Aquatic Centre.

FLAGSTAFF Hill Football Club captain Peter McMaster brought a toddler back to life at the State Aquatic Centre at Marion last Tuesday.

McMaster, 24 was at the pool supervising children on vacation care when he noticed the young boy, aged about 2, floating limp in the water.

After dragging him from the shallow pool, McMaster provided CPR to the unresponsive child.

"I just reacted on instinct and jumped into the water," McMaster said.

"His neck was in an awkward position and he was turning blue so I knew something was wrong immediately".

McMaster unlocked the child's jaw before performing life-saving mouth-to-mouth.

"Everyone was screaming and, after a while, the young kid started coughing up water.

"I just felt pure relief when he regained consciousness ... I was really emotional and overwhelmed with what had happened," he said.

The toddler was taken by ambulance to hospital and was released the next day.

Trained in senior first aid, McMaster, a teacher at Morphett Vale East primary school, said his experience was crucial.

"My training gave me confidence, but it was one of those situations that just happened so quickly, I'm just so wrapped everything worked out."

Staff at the YMCA-run swimming centre debriefed McMaster after the incident.

McMaster said he looked forward to possibly re-uniting with the toddler and his family down the track.

"Catching-up is something I would definitely consider, I would be very interested to see how the young fella is travelling".

A YMCA spokesman confirmed the incident and said McMaster's quick actions and first aid skills ensured the boy's survival.