

DOES A POOL HELP YOUR HOUSE SELL QUICKER?

One of the most common questions a Queensland real estate agent hears in summer, (usually from buyers) is: Does a pool help your house sell quicker?

Swimming pool ownership statistics are actually quite low.

According to Roy Morgan research in 2015, Perth has the highest incidence of swimming pools in backyards – with 18 per cent of homes having a pool.

In regional Queensland 17 per cent of backyards are host to the school holiday pool party.

In Sydney it's 16 per cent and Brisbane is 15 per cent. Melbourne is all the way near the bottom of the table with 8 per cent and rural Victoria is at 7 per cent.

Still, that's a lot of swimming pools in a lot of backyards and as climate change renders our summers ever hotter, surely the glorious backyard pool is a strong selling point?

The short answer is 'no'.

If you look more closely at swimming pool ownership, it's most common in families with children aged 12 – 15 years. Around 20 per cent of Australian families with children in this age bracket have a pool. And for childless homes it's less than 10 per cent pool ownership.

All other family age brackets are less likely to own a pool and this translates to a lower likelihood of wanting to buy a home with a pool.

So, as most agents will tell you, a pool is a selling point only for those families who are looking for a pool. It's very specific and very niche.

There are many downsides to owning a pool. They are costly to run, adding up to \$10,000 a year to your outgoings including electricity, chlorine, filter maintenance, pool blankets and other accessories and cleaning supplies.

They can also be time consuming, requiring regular monitoring and maintenance.

Then there is also the risk of drowning. Even if you don't have children, but know people who do, small children and swimming pools are a high-risk combination, no matter how good the pool fence is.

So while many buyers dream of a home with a gorgeous tranquil pool in the backyard for our blisteringly hot summers, it's actually not likely to help your home sell faster.

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