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Clover Moore MP
Lord Mayor of Sydney
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28 September 2005

Ultimo Aquatic Centre – Sauna Operations

Dear Lord Mayor

I write to you as an Ultimo resident, who is very much looking forward to the day the *Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre* opens its doors. But I am also an Austrian born, lifelong naturist, who is used to having both clothed and clothing optional recreational resources freely available to the public.

As a general rule in other parts of the world, people have saunas in the nude. However, in this country that is not the case, and people like me are not able to make use of the sauna facility in the new aquatic centre if Council upholds this practice.

As you may well know, Vienna boasts the largest nude beaches of Europe along the Danube, and no one from the community ever questioned these facilities being made available by the City of Vienna.

Councils provide nude use in every public sauna, and many aquatic centres, such as the *Städtisches Bad – Jörgerbad* from the City of Vienna's website shows, <http://www.wien.gv.at/baeder/stadtbad/joe.htm> (FKK = *Freikörperkultur*, which means *Free Body Culture* or Naturism in German), and they consider this as part of modern western culture.

To further illustrate my position, I also enclose recent news clippings in this matter.

In my humble opinion, the fact that naturism finds its way onto the front page of a mainstream community newspaper for the metropolitan City of Sydney area, the *Sydney Central Courier*, clearly demonstrates that it is not a minority issue, but an accepted part of our contemporary culture.

So here is my proposal for Council's consideration, which follows good practice in many European city councils and is also supported by the local naturist community (I understand you already received letters of support from concerned Sydneysiders):

The sauna, steam room and spa is to be operated in traditional way (i.e. in the nude, as in Scandinavia, Russia and Korea amongst other countries) on all days, separated in a male and female section. At certain times these separated areas are to be opened up for “mixed” (single patrons) operation and “family” operations (patrons would be admitted only when accompanied by their partner or their children). At all other times “normal” operations apply (gender separated, yet still nude sauna).

This applies for the sauna area only, however, it would be desirable to also allow one day of the week for nude sauna **and** swimming, say, schedule a weekly nude swim night every Saturday (Nothing beats an icy cold shower and a few laps after a hot session in the sauna cabin. Good for health and fitness).

The schedule would be like the following (this is taken loosely from the example of the Viennese *Städtisches Bad – Jörgerbad* as attached):

Weekday	Pool	Sauna <i>(if designed as two separate areas)*</i>	Sauna <i>(if designed as one unisex area only)*</i>
Monday		Male / Female	Female use only
Tuesday		Mixed (evening)	Mixed (evening)
Wednesday		Male / Female	Male use only
Thursday		Family (day)	Family (day)
Friday		Male / Female	Female use only
Saturday	Nude swimming (evening)	Family (evening)	Family (evening)
Sunday		Mixed (afternoon)	Mixed (afternoon)

** A proper sauna area would house two of each facilities, i.e. two change rooms, saunas, steam rooms, spas etc for each gender, however, from memory when I last inspected the floor plan it looked like there will only be one unisex sauna area.*

The roster is necessary to allow all members of the community their fair share of access according to their preferences, i.e. those who do not want to share with the opposite sex, those who do not want to share with children, those who do not want to go without their children, those who want to take their partner along, those who are single etc. Of course this table could always be adapted to reflect actual community needs according to patrons’ feedback.

Let’s get on with it and put Sydney alongside other global cities in the western world, offering recreational resources to suit all members of our modern day society.

Yours sincerely

Gerald Ganglbauer