

# AUSTRALIAN WATER SAFETY STRATEGY 2030 MIDPOINT UPDATE

## BACKGROUND

The Australian Water Safety Strategy (AWSS) sets a shared agenda for preventing drowning and promoting safe use of the nation's waterways and swimming pools. The AWSS 2030 was launched in 2021 with an aspirational target to halve fatal drowning by June 2030.

At the AWSS 2030 midpoint, the Australian drowning prevention and water safety sector engaged in a review process of the strategy involving multiple forums and workshops and culminating in the 2025 National Water Safety Summit.

The consultative midpoint review assessed progress so far, identified what adjustments to the strategy were required, and determined which actions mattered most for reducing drowning, resulting in an updated version of the strategy.

The AWSS Midpoint Update streamlines the strategy framework, prioritises action by naming the 'three things that matter most' for each focus area, and introduces three national imperatives that signal where collective action is needed most to create lasting, transformative impact.

## 2025 UPDATED FRAMEWORK



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FULL REPORT



## NATIONAL IMPERATIVES: WHAT MATTERS MOST?

### Swimming and water safety skills for all

Strengthen government programs  
Ensure no one misses out  
Retention beyond age 7  
Infrastructure and workforce

### Localising water safety efforts

Empower local action  
Bring together groups  
Create coalitions  
Develop plans

### Aligning policies and partnership for change

Whole of government approaches  
Whole of society approaches  
Scaled resources for impact  
Generate and celebrate success

## FOCUS AREAS: WHAT MATTERS MOST?

### PEOPLE

#### Children (0-4 years)

Pool fencing legislation  
Parent and caregiver education  
Interventions for two-year-olds

#### Young males (15-29 years)

High-school programs  
Peer-driven messages  
Segmented strategies

#### Older people (65+ years)

Partnering into the healthy ageing agenda  
Engagement for lifelong aquatic activity  
Strategies for managing medical conditions

### PLACES

#### Beaches

Coordinated and collaborative lifesaving systems  
Beach safety skill-building and awareness  
Managing risk at unpatrolled beaches

#### Rivers and lakes

Inland waterway systems-level prevention  
Land manager leadership  
Disaster resilience

#### Aquatic facilities

Strengthen industry standards  
Address infrastructure and workforce fragilities  
Safety standards for communal pools

### POPULATIONS

#### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Alignment of agendas to close the gap  
Equitable access to programs and facilities  
Embedding First Nations knowledge and leadership

#### Multicultural communities

Cross-sectoral partnerships and collaboration  
Skills and community capacity  
Integration into migrant pathways

#### Regional and remote communities

Support regional networks  
Equitable access to education opportunities  
Local planning for high-risk sites

### ACTIVITIES

#### Boating and watercraft

Regulations and waterway management  
Unified education efforts  
High-risk craft and user groups (PWC)

#### Rock fishing

Consistent policy and risk management systems  
Education paired with skills and equipment  
Blackspot rock platforms

#### Diving and snorkelling

Safety systems and standards  
Education for tourists and occasional participants  
Address risk among vulnerable groups



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Water Safety  
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