

AUSTRALIAN WATER SAFETY STRATEGY 2030

MIDPOINT UPDATE

BACKGROUND

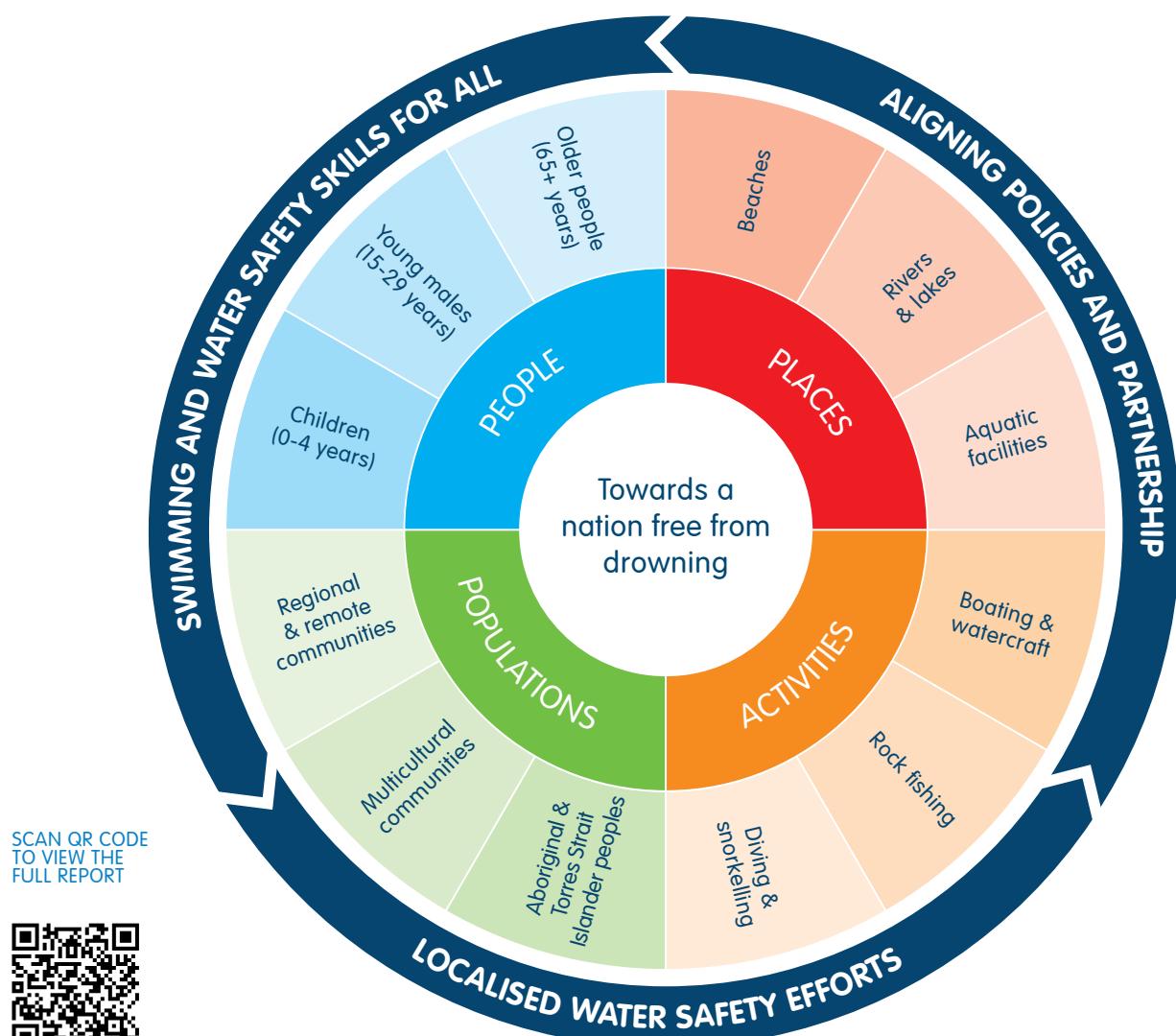
The Australian Water Safety Strategy (AWSS) sets a shared agenda for preventing drowning and promoting safe use of the nation's waterways and swimming pools. The AWSS 2030 was launched in 2021 with an aspirational target to halve fatal drowning by June 2030.

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



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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