

## PROGRAM SUMMARY

# Pathfinder – Refugee Settlement



## Multicultural Community Water Safety Program

**A national, evidence-informed initiative to reduce drowning risk, remove barriers to swimming and water safety education, and build belonging for refugees, recently arrived migrants and broader multicultural communities.**

**Funded by the Australian Government and led by Royal Life Saving Society - Australia.**

### WHY PARTNER WITH US

- Drowning risk and access barriers are especially pronounced during settlement and in the decade following arrival. This opportunity builds water safety into early settlement, not as an add-on.
- It supports 2-4 local pilots that attach subsidised, culturally safe lessons and hazard awareness to existing settlement pathways, so water safety becomes routine settlement practice.
- Aligned to the Australian Water Safety Strategy 2030, the Commonwealth Multicultural Access and Equity Policy, and the Multicultural Framework Review: Towards Fairness — and to Royal Life Saving's strategic approach to eliminating drowning, empowering communities strengthening safety, and succeeding together.

### WHAT'S ON OFFER

- **Grant range:**  
up to \$100,000 (ex GST)
- **Funds available:**  
approximately \$300,000 (excl. GST)
- **Application type:** targeted expression of interest
- **Delivery model:** 2-4 pilots attached to existing settlement pathways
- **Focus:** high-need settlement regions, metropolitan and/or regional

### WHO SHOULD APPLY

A **lead organisation** applying on **behalf of a consortium** that includes:

- At least one **settlement or humanitarian service provider**, migrant resource centre, AMEP or community English provider
- At least one **water safety organisation and/or aquatic provider** - a pool, aquatic facility, swim school or similar
- At least one **council or council representative**
- **Other relevant local partners** as suited to the pilot — refugee and cultural associations, councils, schools, family or youth services

The lead applicant must be an incorporated not-for-profit or incorporated body with the governance and financial capability to manage a partnership at this scale.

### WE SWIM PILLARS

Every funded activity activates one or more of:

- **WE CONNECT** — build links between refugee-background communities, settlement agencies and local aquatic facilities
- **WE WELCOME** — make aquatic environments culturally safe, welcoming and easier to navigate for newly arrived families
- **WE PROMOTE** — share water safety messages in language, through trusted channels within settlement settings
- **WE LEARN** — remove barriers to swimming and water safety education, and build practical skills

### WHO THIS REACHES

- Refugees and humanitarian entrants in settlement programs
- Recently arrived migrants and families
- Emphasis on school-aged children, young people 15–24, and parents or caregivers

### HOW FUNDING IS USED

- No more than **20%** to coordination
- A strong **in-water component** required within the delivery allocation
- **Co-investment expected** — matched or higher cash and in-kind contributions from consortium partners

### SAFETY AND CO-DESIGN

- Delivery only at **GSPO-compliant venues** with qualified staff
- **Trauma-informed and culturally safe practice**, with shared child safety, consent and incident arrangements between partners
- **Refugee and migrant representatives** help shape timing, session types, gender settings and communication

### GET IN TOUCH

Talk to us before you appl. Early conversations help test program fit, confirm geography, and clarify co-design and co-investment expectations.

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