

| FOCUS AREA | AQUATIC INFRASTRUCTURE & SOCIAL IMPACT | SAFETY & RISK | WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT |
|---------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Objectives | Champion the benefits of safe venues, including social value & impact, diversity, inclusion, availability, sustainability & accessibility. | Expand the body of knowledge and understanding of key safety risks and ways of improving practices. | Strengthen the safety, sustainability & professionalisation of the aquatic workforce |
| PRIORITY PROJECTS | | | |
| Research & advocacy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and advocate for increased access to and sustainability of aquatic facilities • Research, advocate and streamline approaches to the measurement of social value & impact of aquatic facilities • Research and advocate for the expansion of diversity and inclusion at aquatic facilities • Develop an evidence base and advocate for government supports for energy efficiency upgrades and utility relief | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and expand research into lifeguarding and supervision, including benefits and impacts of new technologies like AI-based drowning detection systems • Maintain and expand research into state of industry incidents (including non-drowning related injuries), compliance & safety research • Maintain a strong insight into external research and regulatory instruments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and expand research into the workforce profile and development needs and include all staff roles (including dry roles) in aquatic facilities • Advocate for increased professionalisation and system supports • Advocate career pathways and strengthen supports which attract and retain talent • Ensure feedback into the development of VET products and packages as appropriate so they are fit-for-purpose • Investigate psychosocial impacts on all staff working in aquatic facilities • Research and advocate for greater diversity, equity & inclusion in the aquatic workforce |
| Policy & practices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore a national aquatic infrastructure planning framework with a particular focus on a cohesive and consistent approach by federal, state and local government • Develop guidance for aquatic facility sustainability • Maintain and update social value and impact frameworks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and update supervision guidance in light of emerging research and technologies (including AI) • Develop guidance for communal pools (body corporates, hotels, motels & caravan parks) and engage the hospitality sector around pool safety • Update child supervision policy and streamline key industry programs • Streamline and integrate key campaign/programs for swimmers with vulnerabilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and expand a National Aquatic Workforce Framework to include the full roles in aquatic, recreation and leisure facilities • Maintain and expand Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations relating to workforce safety best practice • Investigate guidance on psychosocial supports for rescuers • Expand guidance which supports greater diversity, equity & inclusion in the workforce |
| Systems & supports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with energy efficiency experts and coordinate systems which assess and benchmark energy efficiency and sustainable use of natural resources at aquatic facilities • Maintain and expand supports for pool designers and planners to design safe & sustainable aquatic facilities • Establish facility social impact accreditation • Develop standardised metrics for social value measurement at aquatic facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate an effective and aligned National Aquatic Industry Committee, including updates to membership and terms of reference • Maintain and improve Guideline subscription portal & innovate offerings, consider reducing barriers to subscription • Maintain a national safety assessment system that includes benchmarking & reporting and continually incorporates updated regulations and standards into safety assessments • Incorporate new guidance into national aquatic facility safety assessment system, and associated reporting • Maintain and expand templates and resources that assist with compliance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review guidance and streamline and coordinate fragmented approaches to licensing and accreditation of aquatic facility workers • Expand and scale initiatives which encourage leadership capability development across the aquatic workforce • Expand initiatives which support greater diversity, equity and inclusion • Maintain and expand communication and engagement activities with industry leaders and workers • Support improvements to industrial award(s) |
| Events & recognition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver workshops & events which champion the benefits of safe venues, including social value & impact, diversity, inclusion, availability, sustainability & accessibility • 2025: Deliver an aquatic infrastructure symposium • Support national & state partner workshops, forums & conferences with expert content • Streamline and coordinate professional development opportunities, including conferences • Support aligned approaches to awards & recognition | | |

Since 2016, Royal Life Saving Australia has convened the National Aquatic Industry Committee and facilitated the National Aquatic Industry Strategy in order to advance its commitment to the objectives of the Australian Water Safety Strategy 2030 (AWSS) and longstanding commitment to strengthening the national aquatic industry.

Key AWSS Goals include: 1) Increasing the availability & sustainability of aquatic facilities; 2) Reducing drowning in aquatic facilities by 50%; 3) Ensuring world leading swimming and water safety skills for children and young adults; 4) Ensuring equitable access to swimming and water safety education programs in all States and Territories; 5) Expanding professional development systems for the aquatic workforce; 6) Promoting vocational and career pathways in the aquatic industry; 7) Increasing investments in infrastructure in regional and remote areas; 8) Introducing strategies to address mental health concerns among lifeguards; 9) Ensuring facilities are available and accessible to people of all abilities and backgrounds; and, 10) Promoting the social, health and economic benefits of aquatic facilities to policy makers.