

Look out you MOB

Unfortunately Indigenous Australians are four times more likely to drown than non-Indigenous Australians. This factsheet aims to help reduce the high rate of drowning incidents while encouraging active participation in aquatic recreation activities through safer behaviour.

5 KEY FACTS ABOUT INDIGENOUS DROWNING DEATHS

1. 26% are children under the age of 10
2. Almost half (47%) occur in rivers
3. 11% of victims were using boats or watercraft
4. 29% of victims recorded a blood alcohol level of 0.05% or higher
5. 12% involved flooding, most commonly driving through floodwaters

5 SAFETY TIPS TO KEEP YOU AND YOUR MOB SAFER AROUND WATER

01. ALWAYS WATCH THE KIDS NEAR WATER

Be within arms' reach!

FACT: Young children are curious and don't have the capacity to understand danger or deal with an emergency.

- Actively supervise your child in the actual vicinity where they are.
- If your child is under 5 years, a non- or weak swimmer, get in the water and be within arms' reach.
- For older children and those with swimming skills, keep watch constantly and be ready to get in, if required.

Grown-ups - Keep Watch!

02. SUPERVISION BY RESPONSIBLE ADULTS

FACT: Older children should not be placed in charge of supervising younger children when in and around water - they can easily get distracted, get bored and do not always understand the dangers of leaving children unsupervised, even for a short time.

- Children should always be supervised in and around water by an adult. No matter the location; whether it be the local waterhole or around the home, the responsibility lies with an adult.

03.

MAKE YOUR HOME A SAFE PLAY AREA

FACT: Many child drowning deaths occur in and around the home due to access to water and being unsupervised.

- Empty baths straight after use and keep the plug out of reach.
- Empty buckets, eskies and containers that can store water straight after use and put them away.
- Small paddling pools less than 30cm in depth must be emptied immediately after use and put away.
- Backyard or portable pools (30cm or higher in depth) must be fenced with a self-closing, self-latching gate.
- Barriers and fenced safe play areas keep children away from water sources on properties such as dams, fish ponds and tanks.

Protect your children from water hazards

If it's flooded, turn around

FACT: Floodwaters can conceal objects and the quality of the road, which may have been weakened or washed away. Many drivers underestimate the force of the current needed to displace a car. Only 10cm to 20cm of water above the chassis of a car is enough to cause the vehicle to float and be washed away.

- Never drive through flooded crossings, low-lying roads and waterways.
- Turn around, wait until floodwaters ease or find another route.
- Follow warning signs and safety messages during flooding and the wet season.

04.

STEER CLEAR OF FLOODWATERS

05.

NEVER PLAY AROUND DRAINS OR PIPES

FACT: After heavy rain and during storms, water rises and moves quickly in drains and pipes. The strength and speed of the water is unpredictable. Steep, slippery edges and grates make exiting drains and pipes difficult. Drains can often run for kilometres and run into rivers or the ocean. Dangerous debris rushing through can cause injury.

- Never play or fool around in drains and pipes.
- If caught in fast-flowing water, try to move into a feet-first position and shout for help.

Drains and pipes aren't safe play areas