



ANNUAL REPORT

2018/2019



ROYAL LIFE SAVING
AUSTRALIA







OUR VISION

“A WATER-LOVING NATION FREE FROM DROWNING”

OUR PURPOSE

To lead efforts to reduce drowning and increase swimming, water safety and lifesaving skills.

OUR VALUES

- Leadership, Collaboration and Integrity
- Humanitarianism and Social Entrepreneurship
- Quality and Innovation
- Diversity, Equality and Respect

ANNUAL REPORT 2018/2019

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



“The organisation’s strength lies in collaboration, and the sharing of ideas and resources, and we do this by leveraging the talent and expertise of our members, stakeholders and communities all around the country – something I am personally immensely proud of.”

CAMERON EGLINGTON

National President
Royal Life Saving Society – Australia

This year’s Royal Life Saving Society – Australia Annual Report – my first as National President of the Society – celebrates the commitment and achievements of the many staff and volunteers around Australia in delivering our message of drowning prevention, and working towards our vision of a water-loving nation free from drowning.

The success of Royal Life Saving and our work in the area of drowning prevention and water safety is only made possible by the passion and professionalism of those involved within the organisation – volunteers, employees, board members, casual trainers, officials and other key stakeholders across all States and Territories, including those promoting and competing in the Australian Pool Lifesaving Championships. Our reputation for delivering sound research, targeted training and quality education programs is a direct product of their hard work, and Royal Life Saving campaigns, such as Respect the River, Don’t Let Your Mates Drink and Drown, and Keep Watch, are testament to this.

This was particularly evident to me at the recent World Conference on Drowning Prevention in Durban in South Africa, where I was delighted to see how well regarded our work was on the international stage. For this, I’d like to thank everyone for their contributions.

This year represents 125 years of Royal Life Saving – that is 125 years of preventing drowning and promoting lifesaving skills in Australia.

Many events and activities have been held to mark this significant milestone, including a gala dinner in Brisbane with Royal Life Saving Queensland members, an event with lifesaving officials at the Australian Pool Lifesaving Championships and a commemorative dinner with Royal Life Saving New South Wales members at the Dicks Hotel in Balmain – one of the first meeting locations of stakeholders that resolved to create the organisation we see today.

We are honoured to have His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia join us as our new Patron this year. His Excellency will soon be hosting our 125th anniversary reception at Admiralty House in Sydney to celebrate the work of dedicated colleagues past and present.

Thanks also to our immediate Past Patron General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK CVO MC (Retd) for his support in helping to promote our work throughout Australia over the past five years during which Royal Life Saving has made huge inroads in influencing water safety policy through improved data review and analysis.

I’d also like to extend my appreciation and thanks to my fellow national board directors for their insight and guidance. In particular, thank you to our outgoing directors, the Honourable Terry Higgins AO and Mr Les Mole.

Both Past Presidents have served the national organisation for many years, including through the transition to the new governance model in 2007. Now, having served the maximum of five terms, they are stepping down but they leave the organisation in good shape ready for the challenges to come.

As we embark on the next chapter of Royal Life Saving in an ever-changing environment and landscape, both at home and globally, I can’t help but reflect on the important role that community plays in promoting our water safety messages, and contributing to social and health outcomes. I was able to see this at first hand recently when I was honoured to introduce traditional owners at the Pilbara Water Safety Planning Workshop I attended in Western Australia to promote Indigenous Advancement through education and training – something I’m passionate about.

Communities – large and small – by their very nature are diverse – our future successes in reducing drowning depends on engaging these communities at every level to spread our message.

Esteemed colleagues started this work 125 years ago – I look forward to working with partners and members to prepare our strategies for the coming years. Drowning is preventable and we must work together to ensure no one dies or is injured unnecessarily.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



“ It has been a busy year, with many challenges as well as many highlights – we’ve achieved a lot, but I know there is still more work to be done in our very clear vision of a water-loving nation free from drowning.”

JUSTIN SCARR

Chief Executive Officer
Royal Life Saving Society - Australia

Royal Life Saving Society – Australia continues to make significant progress in many areas of drowning prevention policy and research through programs and projects supported by the national office team and delivered by our Royal Life Saving colleagues in the States and Territories around Australia.

Our work involves collaborating and involving both community and industry, using evidence-based research to inform policy and advocate change in behaviour to prevent death and injury through drowning. Of course no policy and advocacy can be driven without Government and ministerial support, and for that I would like to thank Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck, Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians, and Minister for Youth and Sport, and Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie, now Minister for Agriculture for their strong commitment to our work.

Royal Life Saving’s research team conducts many studies across different communities, locations and activities to inform policy and program development. These studies serve to underpin our advocacy campaigns, including Keep Watch, Don’t Let your Mates Drink and Drown, and Respect the River. Data sharing with the Government, coroners and the media are a strong indicator of this valuable contribution to Australian society.

Over the past year, we have grown the research team but said a fond farewell to Dr Amy Peden, National Manager Research and Policy, and a long-term member of this team, who moved to the University of NSW in June.

Amy’s drive and passion in the field of drowning prevention has been clear to see, a legacy we are extremely proud of and one we know will set us in good stead for the future.

In 2019, we commenced a review of the Australian Water Safety Strategy 2016-2020 on behalf of the Australian Water Safety Council and the Australian Government and hope to have a new strategy by summer 2020/21.

Royal Life Saving continues to maintain and develop the Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations for the aquatic industry, which provides a voluntary guide for operators to satisfy their legislative duties while ensuring a high standard of care for the public. Numerous enquiries from the Government, local councils and two coronial enquiries underline the importance of these guidelines and the part they play in keeping people safe.

We held our third National Swimming and Water Safety Symposium in September 2019, which focused on implementing a National Swimming and Water Safety Framework. The aim is to identify key benchmarks to support parents, swim schools and the Government to ensure all children in Australia have access to swimming and water safety education.

Much of our work in the community would not be possible without the support of the Government and our corporate funding partners, for which we are extremely grateful.

As we continue to grow our partnership with UNCLE TOBYS, the Swim My Way program focuses on promoting the many benefits of swimming, and also targets communities that might otherwise miss out on acquiring these skills.

Protector Aluminium, another corporate partner, supports our Keep Watch campaign to keep young children safe around water by highlighting the importance of erecting barriers to water as one element of drowning prevention, and helping to fund some of our child drowning research.

I’d like to thank everyone for their hard work, and their very substantial achievements. Particular thanks must go to Rhonda Groneman and Bree Connolly at the national office who helped to organise the delivery of VACSWIM in South Australia. I know their efforts were greatly appreciated by the South Australia Government, community and the new Royal Life Saving South Australia Board. Thank you also to our national advisers, Prof John Pearn AO RFD (Medical/Research), Dr Shayne Baker OAM (Education and Training) and David Macallister (Sport), who continue to advise and mentor staff and volunteers.

As always, we are very grateful to the Board, our President, Cameron Eglington, and Deputy President, Pene Snashall, the Finance and Audit Committee, Honours Committee, and the CEOs and staff of our members for their ongoing guidance and support.

“Over the past century our vision has remained the same. We have always sought to reduce drowning, increase physical activity, especially in and around the water, and contribute to the creation of more resilient communities, Australia wide.”

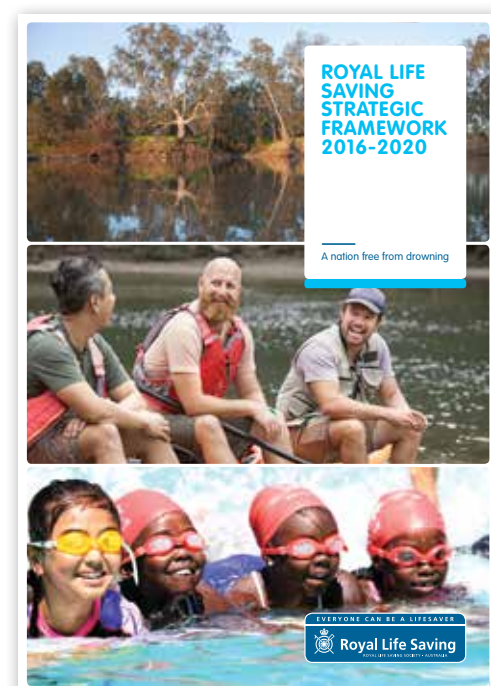
Achieving these long term goals requires a deliberate effort to promote change.

This change is best identified as:

- Shifts in our knowledge and advances in the evidence base
- Newly developed and adjusted policies that impact drowning prevention or that promote water safety
- Increases in community water safety awareness and education
- Increased adoption of the risk management systems that make aquatic environments safer
- Shifts in individual and community behaviours, particularly among those at greatest risk

We focus on eight priority areas:

- Drowning prevention leadership
- Research, policy and advocacy
- Community awareness and action
- Swimming, lifesaving, water safety pathway
- Safer aquatic locations
- Drowning prevention leadership abroad
- Organisational cohesion and growth
- People and culture







DROWNING PREVENTION LEADERSHIP

Royal Life Saving has a resolute focus to do its bit - and encourage others to do theirs - to achieve the Australian Water Safety Council's long-term goal of halving drowning deaths in Australia by 2020.



30+ CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 01** GOVERNMENT SUBMISSIONS
- 02** EXPERT ADVICE AND CORONIAL INQUESTS
- 04** AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION
- 11** BOARD/ADVISORY PANELS
- 155** ATTENDEES AT ROYAL LIFE SAVING SYMPOSIUMS



COMMITMENT TO THE AUSTRALIAN WATER SAFETY STRATEGY

Royal Life Saving continues to manage the secretariat of the Australian Water Safety Council (AWSC) with the support of the Australian Government and works closely with foundation members Surf Life Saving Australia and AUSTRIM.

In 2019, the AWSC commenced a review of the Australian Water Safety Strategy 2016-2020. This process includes conducting workshops, consultations and an extensive review of data and evidence to inform and set the agenda for the next decade. We are working and collaborating with partners to evaluate the lessons learned both home and abroad, to have a new strategy available for launch by summer 2020/21.

Addressing Drowning Among Multicultural Communities

In December 2018 the AWSC convened a two day symposium to address drowning among multicultural communities, linking directly to Goal 10 of the Australian Water Safety Strategy 2016-2020 to reduce drowning deaths in high risk populations.

The symposium brought together over 50 delegates from the aquatic industry, government, and the community to explore key themes in research, community engagement, programs and practice, and strategies for success.

A key outcome of the symposium was a collective statement and actions which are multi-sectorial and cross cutting. They do not attempt to assign responsibility but rather suggests next steps moving forward on this important issue.

The action statements confirm our commitment to:

- Ensuring the Australian Water Safety Council and the drowning prevention sector take all necessary steps to reinforce and achieve the engagement, advocacy, policy, and practice actions
- Incorporating culturally diverse drowning perspectives into the Australian Water Safety Strategy and its implementation efforts
- Incorporating culturally diverse drowning perspectives into future Royal Life Saving Society - Australia National Drowning Reports and Surf Life Saving Australia National Coastal Safety Reports
- Stronger cross-sectoral collaboration to reduce drowning (fatal and non-fatal) among multicultural communities across Australia.

“Royal Life Saving directs significant resources towards the implementation of the Australia Water Safety Strategy with the aim of reducing fatal drowning by 50% by the year 2020.”

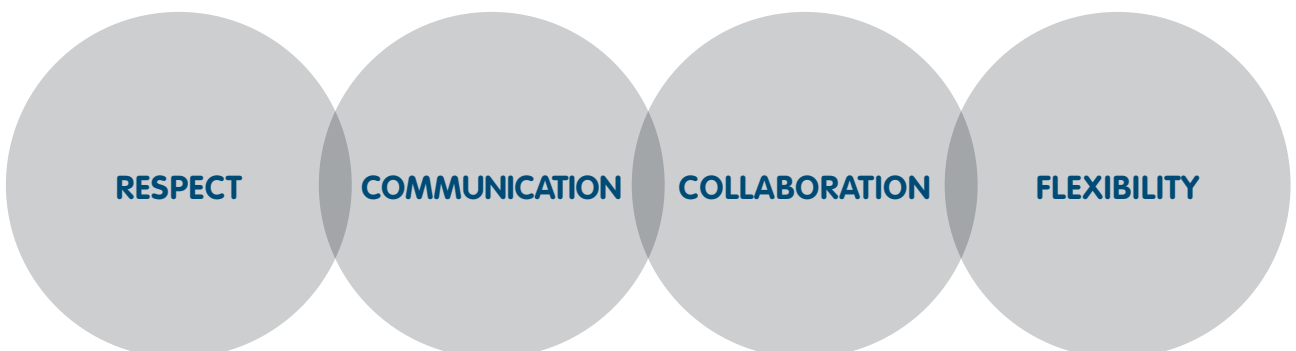
Image: Symposium Delegates, December 2018



Symposium Action Statement Summary

ENGAGEMENT			
Build closer ties between the drowning prevention sector and multicultural communities			
1. Improve knowledge and understanding of engagement among the drowning prevention sector	2. Develop best practice guidelines to community engagement	3. Simplify language to improve understanding of key water safety messages	
ADVOCACY			
Raise awareness of drowning in high-risk populations			
1. Improve drowning data relating to multicultural communities	2. Increase awareness of the drowning burden	3. Promote the benefits of swimming and water safety skills	
POLICY			
Develop and implement water safety policies specific to multicultural communities			
1. Advocate for sustainable funding of water safety programs for multicultural communities	2. Strengthen stakeholder collaboration	3. Develop policies that reflect community needs	
PRACTICE			
Sharing of research, resources, and programs			
1. Improve coordination of program delivery	2. Conduct an audit of initiatives specific to multicultural communities	3. Carry out program evaluation	4. Develop a research agenda

Principles that underpin the Action Statements



Read the full Symposium Report at:
royallifesaving.com.au

REPORTS INTO DROWNING PREVENTION, LIFESAVING AND WATER SAFETY

Working in collaboration, Royal Life Saving Society - Australia together with Surf Life Saving Australia released their annual reports outlining the impacts of fatal and non-fatal drowning deaths at Parliament House, Canberra on Monday 16 September 2019. The reports were released by Senator the Honourable Richard Colbeck, Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians, Minister for Youth and Sport.

“Presenting this material in this format sends a powerful message. It really does demonstrate that we have great organisations who are continuing to put the message out that we need to continue to reinforce.

It’s great to see the stats particularly in child drownings coming down over a reasonable period of time. It demonstrates the importance of supervision and also teaching kids water safety so they are able to participate and enjoy the water but also be alert to the dangers.”

Senator the Honourable Richard Colbeck
Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians,
Minister for Youth and Sport

Top: Parliament House Canberra – Justin Scarr, CEO, RLSSA;
Senator the Hon. Richard Colbeck; Adam Weir, CEO, SLA.

Bottom: Senator Helen Polley, Tasmania.



For the 2018/19 financial year there were 276 drowning deaths across Australia from July 2018 to June 2019, representing a 10% increase on the previous year.

Of these, 123 deaths (45%) occurred over the summer period, which is a 17% increase compared with the 10-year average.

Overall, 101 drowning deaths occurred in inland waterways and 31 in swimming pools. There were 122 coastal drowning deaths, which includes 71 on beaches, 22 at rock/cliff locations and 18 offshore. Over 80% of total drowning deaths were male.

The research findings also highlight:

- An estimated 584 hospitalisations in the past year occurred as a result of non-fatal drowning incidents across Australia
- Drowning in children aged 0 to 4 years decreased by 30%, compared with the 10-year average
- Risk-taking behaviour, often involving alcohol and drugs, as well as poor swimming ability continue to impact drowning rates

Members of Parliament and Senators showed their support at the launch and by sharing the important water safety messages with their electorate.

Top: The Hon. Matt Thistlethwaite MP, Member for Kingsford Smith.

Bottom: Ms Zali Steggall OAM, MP, Member for Warringah.



SUMMER DROWNING TOLL

Royal Life Saving continued to monitor and report on the Summer Drowning Toll to assist media in its coverage of drowning and water safety over the summer period.

The summer drowning toll tracked fatal drowning incidents, recording key demographics, as well as geographic and circumstantial information.

There was significant media interest with over 5,300 page views for the Summer Drowning Toll. This was a fourfold increase on the previous year. Key dates of interest were noted as:

- 23 January 2019 with 272 page views
- 1-2 January 2019 with 281 page views



MEDIA REPORTS ON SUMMER DROWNING INCIDENTS NATIONALLY



SUMMER DROWNING DEATHS SNAPSHOT

Of the total drowning deaths in 2018/19, 45% occurred in summer. Over half (54%) of all beach drowning deaths in 2018/19 occurred in summer, 2.6 times more than the next closest season (spring 21%).

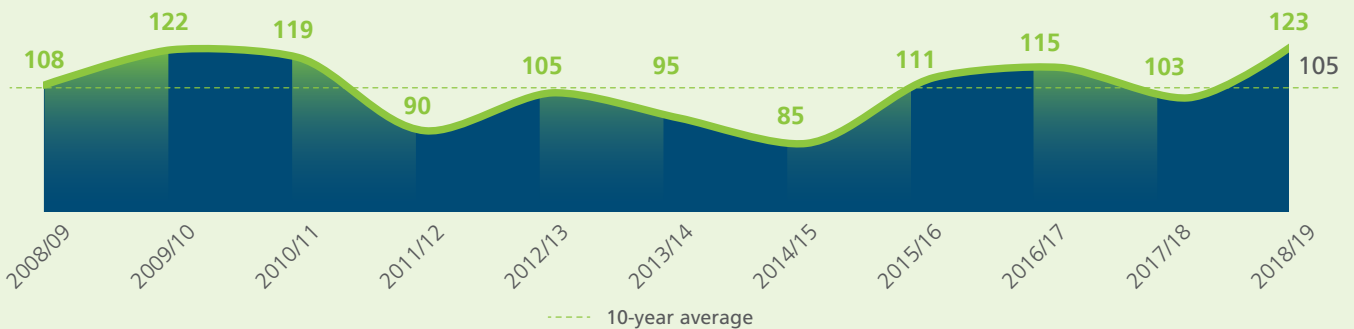
30% of all people who drowned during summer in 2018/19, were a visitor to their drowning location. Half (50%) of all drowning deaths of overseas tourists occurred in summer.

Royal Life Saving research has reported an increased risk for drowning during public holidays and school holidays. During the summer there are three national public holiday days (Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Australia Day), as well as individual State/Territory public holiday and school holiday periods



DROWNING DEATHS OCCURRED IN SUMMER

17% INCREASE ON THE 10 YEAR AVERAGE



Drowning deaths in summer from 2008/09 to 2018/19 and the 10-year average



RESEARCH, POLICY AND ADVOCACY

We're bringing science and advocacy to lifesaving. Striving to know exactly who was at risk of drowning - where, when and why. Seeking and testing answers on how to eliminate it. Advocating for change, and collaborative effort to reduce drownings' impact on the community.



38,990
RESEARCH REPORT
ONLINE PAGE VIEWS



1,656
NATIONAL CORONIAL
INFORMATION SYSTEM
SEARCHES

13 ACADEMIC ARTICLES PUBLISHED

14 REPORTS PUBLISHED

32 DATA REQUESTS PROVIDED



ROYAL LIFE SAVING NATIONAL DROWNING REPORT 2019

The Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report 2019 found that there were 276 drowning deaths across Australia between 1 July 2018 and 30 June 2019. Further, it is estimated there were a further 584 hospitalisations resulting from non-fatal drowning incidents.

This year's findings show that:

- The total number of drowning deaths over the past year increased by 10% on the previous year;
- The hottest summer on record led to a 17% increase in summer drowning deaths when compared with the 10-year average;
- Rivers accounted for 29% of all drowning deaths, more than any other location;
- There was a 39% increase in multiple fatality events, that is multiple people drowning in one incident, compared with the 10-year average;
- People aged 45 to 55 years accounted for 15% of the total number of drowning deaths, the most of any age group.

This report also shows that drowning deaths in children aged 0-4 years decreased by 30% when compared with the 10-year average, and that children aged 5-14 years remain the lowest age group for drowning (3% of all drowning deaths).

Consistently low numbers of drowning deaths in children in recent years are encouraging, showing that our Keep Watch messages, which highlight the importance of active supervision, physical barriers to water and water familiarisation, are hitting home and helping to keep children safe.

In reviewing our findings, we can see that certain communities and demographic groups continue to be at a higher risk of drowning. In this report, we take an in-depth look at these high-risk groups to better understand the risk factors and how they might be addressed in future drowning prevention programs, campaigns, partnerships and research.

For example, those from multicultural, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and low socio-economic backgrounds, as well as those living in remote areas, remain at greater risk of drowning. We know that the cost of swimming lessons and water safety education, access to appropriate local aquatic facilities and cultural differences are often barriers to learning these lifesaving skills in many of these communities. We are working hard with the support of the Australian Government and corporate partners to reach out to these communities by providing comprehensive swimming and water safety education programs across the country.

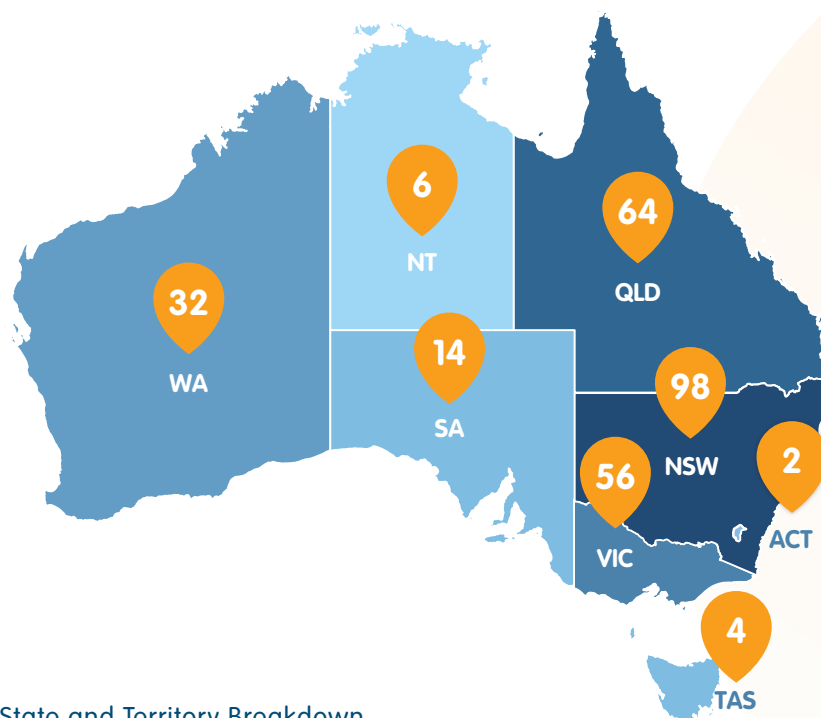
In addition, men aged 25 to 34, and older Australians over the age of 65, are at greater risk of drowning. In the case of men, alcohol and drugs while recreating around water remain a concern and the central focus of many of our campaigns. For older Australians, we've been working to highlight the part played by pre-existing medical conditions and multi-drug interactions in drowning incidents in this group.

The findings and analysis in this report are based on data collected over the past 17 years in the Royal Life Saving National Fatal Drowning Database.



PEOPLE DROWNED IN AUSTRALIAN WATERWAYS IN 2018/19

10% INCREASE ON 2017/18



State and Territory Breakdown

KEY ISSUES

Key issues have been identified within the National Drowning Report 2019 which focus on research and drowning data from the past 10 years, identifying high-risk populations and contributing factors to drowning. This work will inform future drowning prevention policies and ensure appropriate messaging targeted at those most at risk.

National Drowning Report 2019 Key Issues



“Our work at Royal Life Saving continues to focus on understanding the impact of both fatal and non-fatal drowning. Through this work, we aim to educate, inform and advocate best practice, working with partners and policy makers, to develop robust national drowning prevention and water safety strategies.”



Read the full Drowning Report 2019 at:
royallifesaving.com.au

KEY RESEARCH REPORTS

The Royal Life Saving National Fatal Drowning Database continues to be a valuable resource for drowning prevention research and advocacy efforts. The database features detailed variables on the circumstances of all unintentional fatal drowning deaths that have occurred in Australian waterways since 1 July 2002 and now holds almost 5,000 cases.

Royal Life Saving Reports during 2018/19 included:

- Changing driver behaviour during floods: testing a novel e-health intervention using implementation imagery. Griffith University & Amy Peden, June 2019
- Understanding consumers' knowledge, beliefs and attitudes toward portable pool compliance and safety behaviours. Griffith University & Amy Peden, March 2019 for the Government of Western Australia Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.
- An examination of child drowning in portable pools in Australia. Amy Peden, April 2019
- Supervising and restricting young children's access to water: program evaluation of 'Keep Watch'. Griffith University & Amy Peden, May 2019
- NSW Priority Issue reports: 1) Regional and Remote, 2) Ageing Australians, 3) Overseas Born. May, 2019
- 10 years of the Remote Swim, Survive and Strive program in the Northern Territory 2008-2018. June, 2019
- The Northern Territory water safety awareness program. June, 2019
- Tasmanian Drowning Report: A 15 year analysis of fatal drowning. Oct, 2018



One in four drowning deaths involved people born outside of Australia

Report: 10 Year National Study of Overseas Born Drowning Deaths

27% of all drowning deaths over the past 10 years involved people who were born overseas. This includes recent arrivals, long-term residents, overseas tourists, international students, and those in Australia for work purposes. This figure could be higher, given the country of birth is unknown in a further 18% of cases.

Adults accounted for 97% of drowning deaths in this study. Poor swimming skills and the influence of alcohol were leading contributing factors in these drowning deaths.

The highest number of drowning deaths was of people born in China, New Zealand, England, South Korea and India. However, the populations found to have the highest risk of drowning (based on population living in Australia) were those from Taiwan, South Korea, and Ireland.

Most people in this study (86%) were living in Australia at the time of death, with time in country known in 60% of cases.

The highest proportion of drowning deaths was among those who had lived in Australia for at least 10 years. Two thirds (68%) were aged 55 years or over, suggesting that these people are pursuing aquatic activity later in life. However, they may have never had the chance, or the time, to learn swimming and lifesaving skills. Pre-existing medical conditions were also found to be a factor for drowning among this group.

Another key group for drowning in this study were recent arrivals - those who had lived in Australia for five years or less. Nearly half (42%) had resided in Australia under 12 months, 83% were male and 53% were aged between 18 - 34 years. Key risk factors were being under the influence of alcohol and limited swimming skills.

Emerging trends include drowning deaths of international students and those in Australia for work purposes. International students accounted for 8% of drowning deaths in this study. Over 90% were inexperienced swimmers. As Australia's popularity as a study destination continues to increase, it is vitally important that international students are provided with swimming and lifesaving education in order to prevent future drowning deaths among this group.



People from multicultural backgrounds and overseas visitors are often less familiar with water safety precautions

Report: Cultural Diversity and Drowning Prevention Report

Royal Life Saving engaged Beasley Intercultural to undertake qualitative research to increase our understanding of Australia's culturally diverse populations and to fill in the gaps relating to behaviour and attitudes that may be leading to drowning among these high-risk communities.

The focus was on key populations identified as being most at risk from the research; Chinese, Korean, Indian, Vietnamese and newly arrived migrant African communities. The aim of the research was to gain an in-depth understanding of the water safety knowledge, attitudes towards water, cultural beliefs and participation (or lack of) in aquatic activities through case studies of Australian migrants.

Key findings:

- People from multicultural backgrounds and overseas visitors are often less familiar with water safety precautions
- Many elements of drowning prevention require customisation to maximise participation among multicultural communities
- Good practice in maximising multicultural participation facilitates inclusion and participation.



965 Toddlers have drowned in the past 25 years

Report: Trends in Child Drowning Over the Last 25 Years

965 children aged 0-4 years drowned in Australia between 1 July 1993 and 30 June 2018. Accidental falls into water were recorded as the leading activity resulting in drowning. For every fatal drowning there were an estimated 7.6 non-fatal drowning incidents resulting in hospitalisation. That is approximately 7,361 children who suffered a non-fatal drowning over the last 25 years, many live with a permanent disability as a result.

During this time, we have seen the rate of unintentional fatal drowning among children under five, decline by 67%. Such reductions have been possible due to a concerted effort in areas such as government policy and enforcement, public awareness and education, advocacy and research.

The introduction and subsequent strengthening of pool fencing legislation, including the introduction of swimming pool registers and inspection regimes, has contributed to making the home pool environment, safer for young children. Parent and care giver education on the importance of active adult supervision and CPR skills, communicated through programs such as Royal Life Saving's Keep Watch program, have also strengthened awareness of the risk factors and strategies for prevention.

Over the 20 financial years between 1998/99 and 2017/18, the reduction in drowning rates has saved an estimated 567 children's lives, compared to what would have happened had rates observed in the first five years of the study period remained in effect.



The risk of drowning doubles on public holidays

Report: Drowning Risk on Public Holidays in Australia

Between 1 July 2002 and 30 June 2017, 210 Australians fatally drowned on days which were public holidays in their home State or Territory. This represents 5% of all fatal drowning over this period, despite public holidays accounting for only 3% of the year.

The relative risk (RR) of drowning on a public holiday compared to other days of the year is 1.73. How much higher your risk of drowning gets on public holidays depends on your age, aquatic locations visited, aquatic activities undertaken and whether you have been drinking and/or are a visitor to the area.

Younger people – those aged 10 to 34 years – see their risk of drowning more than double on public holidays. For people between 10 and 14 years, the risk is particularly large, nearly four times as high (RR=3.78). At the younger end of this age range, some of this increase may be because school holidays tend to overlap with public holidays. Beaches (RR=2.22), swimming pools (RR=2.04) and rocks (RR=1.98) all get much more dangerous on public holidays, and drowning while swimming and recreating is 2.4 times as likely on public holidays than on other days of the year.

Mixing alcohol and aquatic recreation is always risky, and becomes even more so on public holidays – fatal drowning where the victim has a blood alcohol content (BAC) of 0.05% or higher is more than twice as likely to occur on a public holiday (RR=2.07).



COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ACTION

While we talk about its perils, we actually love the water, and we want you and your family to love it too. With just a little advice, and a few key skills it can bring a lifetime of good health, fitness and family fun.



325,863
WEBSITE USERS



1,222,978
WEBSITE PAGE VIEWS

NATIONAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

1. Keep Watch – Water. It's Only Safe While You're Watching
2. Respect the River
3. Portable Pools – Don't Duck Out
4. Don't Let your Mates Drink and Drown



A CALL TO ACTION TO MEN AGED 25-45 YEARS: DON'T LET YOUR MATES DRINK AND DROWN

In the lead up to the Australia Day long weekend Royal Life Saving, supported by the Australian Government, launched the 'Don't Let Your Mates Drink and Drown' campaign, to remind men of the serious issue surrounding alcohol consumption near water.

The average blood alcohol concentration of males who drowned with a positive reading of alcohol in their system was almost three times the legal driving limit. Alarming, the males who are drowning under the influence of alcohol aren't just having a drink or two, they're significantly inebriated.

"Leave the booze until safely away from the water, look out for your mates and pull them into line if they're under the influence and thinking about doing something reckless near water such as swimming or boating. You will literally save their life." Justin Scarr, CEO, Royal Life Saving.

Royal Life Saving recommends the following safety tips to keep your mates safe around waterways:

- Avoid entering the water after drinking alcohol
- Know your limits
- Never swim alone
- Learn how to resuscitate.

Key Facts

- 2,760 men aged 18 years and over have fatally drowned between 1 July 2003 and 30 June 2018
- 492 cases were known to have a contributory blood alcohol level (18%)
- The average blood alcohol content of males who drowned under the influence of alcohol was 0.147
- 195 (40%) alcohol related drowning deaths occurred in summer
- The highest number of alcohol related drowning deaths occurred in January (76 deaths)
- Of the activities resulting in drowning deaths while under the influence of alcohol, 41% were as a result of jumping in, and 32% were due to falls into water
- Rivers, creeks, and streams were the leading location for drink drowning, accounting for 28% of all male drowning deaths with a contributory blood alcohol level.



Watch the 'Don't Let Your Mates Drink and Drown' videos at:
[youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust](https://www.youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust)



Campaign Activity

Targeting men aged 25-45 years in regional and remote locations who have an interest in boating, fishing, and camping. Campaign activity included: Broad media outreach; Influencer marketing; Social media advertising; Television, Radio, Digital and Social Media partnership with Triple M.



228 PRINT AND BROADCAST ITEMS



1,707,393 PRINT AND BROADCAST CUMULATIVE AUDIENCE



\$296,701 MEDIA VALUE

Influencer Marketing

Royal Life Saving partnered with various influencers who aligned with the campaign message and whose audience reflect the target audience. Using influencers was a new part of the campaign strategy to reach audiences in a dynamic way.

Influencers are an opportunity to present the brand and message to new audiences who trust and relate to the influencer.



296,967 TOTAL REACH



398,827 TOTAL IMPRESSIONS

Facebook | Instagram Summary



1,181,746 IMPRESSIONS

251,058

PEOPLE REACHED

230,831

POST ENGAGEMENTS

YouTube Summary



127,789 IMPRESSIONS

47,649

VIEWS

37.30%

VIEW RATE

Industry average view rate of 15%

Triple M Partnership



\$342,540 RADIO CSA VALUE

Royal Life Saving partnered with Southern Cross Austereo – Triple M Regional Networks. Media activity included:

- TV CSA - Value: \$97,360
- Digital Display – Impressions 1,032,131
- Social media – Reach 129,612 / Video Views 46,746





“Active supervision is the best protection against child drowning; however kids can be quick and hard to keep up with so it’s vital to fence pools and spas to prevent children gaining access.”

PARENTS URGED TO KEEP WATCH AFTER RESEARCH REVEALED 965 TODDLERS DROWNED IN THE PAST 25 YEARS

965 children aged 0-4 years drowned in Australia between 1 July 1993 and 30 June 2018. Accidental falls into water were recorded as the leading activity resulting in drowning.

Swimming pools were the leading location for drowning deaths among young children in Australia, accounting for 52% of all drowning deaths between 2002/03 – 2017/18.

Faulty or propped open gates are the primary risk factors in home pool drowning deaths of young children. For every fatal drowning there were an estimated 7.6 non-fatal drowning incidents resulting in hospitalisation. That is approximately 7,361 children who suffered a non-fatal drowning over the last 25 years, many live with a permanent disability as a result.

Keep Watch has actively been working for over 25 years to prevent toddler drowning deaths and continues to be Australia’s most comprehensive drowning prevention and water safety program for children under 5.

With the release in October 2018 of the alarming statistics and trends in child drowning over the last 25 years, parents and carers were urged by Royal Life Saving to Keep Watch and to supervise children at all times around water. The key focus of the campaign message was around complacency and to drive the Keep Watch messages of (1) Supervision and (2) Restricting Access.

“Drowning is often quick and silent. Distractions like browsing social media on your phone, attending to another child, or ducking inside to grab something can have tragic consequences if a toddler is left unattended by water. It’s important for parents and carers to take extra safety precautions. Always Keep Watch of children around water” Justin Scarr, CEO, Royal Life Saving.

As part of the campaign, Royal Life Saving, with the support of the Australian Government, activated a national PR Strategy (including print and broadcast media), released a series of community service announcements for television and online media, developed a targeted social media activation, and engaged influential parental media outlets in efforts to ensure parents received the keep watch message in time for summer. Further a 30 and 15 second Radio CSA was developed and circulated to promote the Keep Watch message.

The Keep Watch campaign was supported in New South Wales by the New South Wales Government and in Western Australia by the Western Australian Government.



Watch the ‘Water. It’s only safe while you’re watching’ video: [youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust](https://www.youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust)

495+

CSA PLACEMENTS

Fox 8, Arena, Lifestyle, Southern Cross, WIN, NBN, Prime, Imparja and Aboriginal Broadcasting

529

PRINT AND BROADCAST ITEMS

5,042,885

CUMULATIVE AUDIENCE

1,880,078

SOCIAL MEDIA SHARED REACH

DON'T DUCK OUT: MAKE PORTABLE POOLS SAFE

The Australian consumer law and product safety regulators joined forces with Royal Life Saving to remind parents and carers to make portable pools SAFE.

On average one child dies from a portable pool-related drowning every year in Australia, while others need hospital treatment and may be left with severe brain injuries.

Portable pools – ranging from small blow-up or plastic paddling or kiddie pools to bigger wading pools, inflatable spas or high-sided flexible plastic pools on a frame – can be popular in summer as a cheap alternative to below-ground pools BUT they're just as dangerous.



Adults following the Don't Duck Out, Make It SAFE tips, such as keeping constant watch of kids around portable pools, can reduce the risk and potentially save lives.

Supervise. Actively watch children within arm's reach. Don't leave older children in charge.

Act. Learn emergency response including CPR. It's important to start compressions and breaths as soon as possible when a child is pulled from the water and to call triple zero (000) for help. If there are two people, one should make the phone call while the other does CPR.

Fence. In most parts of Australia, pools with more than 30cm of water, are legally required to have a compliant safety barrier. Check with your local Council or Government agency.

Empty and store safely. After keeping watch all day, pour out water and put the pool away where children can't reach. Never leave it where it can refill with rain or sprinkler water.

Under the Australian Consumer Law, portable pools and their packaging are required to have labels drawing the buyer's attention to drowning risk, the need for active supervision, proper storage and local fencing laws. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and state and territory consumer protection regulators enforce product safety labelling laws by carrying out inspections of portable pools at retailers. Suppliers of portable pools failing to comply with the mandatory standard can face hefty penalties.

“We're partnering with Royal Life Saving in a campaign called 'Don't Duck Out' to promote awareness about the dangers portable pools pose to young children. We're asking parents and carers to make sure their portable pool is safe for youngsters, including by putting up safety barriers and always making sure the pool is drained after use.”

Delia Rickard, ACCC Deputy Chair

SOCIAL MEDIA IMPACT

Royal Life Saving's social media channels increase awareness and educate the community about drowning prevention and water safety.

With a dedicated social media strategy, Royal Life Saving regularly communicates to and engages with audiences on a range of issues. Key campaigns driven through social media include:

- Keep Watch
- Don't Let Your Mates Drink and Drown
- Respect the River



3,149,464

FACEBOOK IMPRESSIONS

334

TOTAL NUMBER OF POSTS

1,701,120

TOTAL REACH

1,539,403

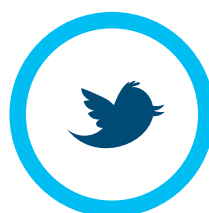
TOTAL VIDEO VIEWS
(Total count > 3 sec)

81,975

ENGAGED USERS

13,538

FOLLOWERS



595,874

TWITTER IMPRESSIONS

399

TOTAL NUMBER OF POSTS

9,622

TOTAL ENGAGEMENTS



237,434

YOUTUBE VIEWS

239,267

TOTAL WATCH TIME (MINUTES)

“Public perceptions about drowning often compound the problem: ‘Australians are great swimmers – it’s mainly tourists who drown; you only need a lifejacket if you can’t swim’. Our job is to change much of that.”



SWIMMING, LIFESAVING, WATER SAFETY PATHWAY

We are building a nation of lifesavers that together help create communities free from drowning.



877,330
TOTAL NUMBER EDUCATION
AND TRAINING AWARDS

463,510	SWIM AND SURVIVE
223,069	WATER SAFETY EDUCATION
105,205	RESUSCITATION
33,615	FIRST AID
19,774	BRONZE COMMUNITY
17,005	POOL LIFEGUARD
7,504	RESCUE STRAND
2,718	BRONZE MEDALLION
2,355	INLAND WATERWAYS
1,804	AUSTSWIM <small>Inc. Swimming & Water Safety Teacher and Extension Courses</small>
381	AQUATIC TECHNICAL OPERATOR
215	JUNIOR LIFEGUARD
144	GREY MEDALLION
31	ADVANCED LIFESAVING





NATIONAL SWIMMING AND WATER SAFETY FRAMEWORK

Royal Life Saving developed the National Swimming and Water Safety Framework in 1999, endorsed by the Australian Water Safety Council. The Framework provides a comprehensive outline of the water safety, personal survival and swimming skills that should be taught, aligned to primary school years (grades 1 – 7).

The Framework offers a skills-based continuum to learn skills for a range of situations and environments. Concern has been expressed over the decline of swimming and water safety skills among Australian children. To address this issue, a National Swimming and Water Safety Education Symposium was held in 2017. The outcome was six action statements, one of which was to revise the National Swimming and Water Safety Framework.

In 2018 a reference group was formed to review and contribute to the development of an updated Framework. A Delphi style method was utilised, involving 20 experts across the aquatic industry in Australia, including education representatives, the swim school industry, swimming and water safety organisation's and academics. Three rounds of online surveys were conducted, followed by a face-to-face workshop.

The outcomes of Round 1 provided a direction on the purpose and primary audience, and identified strengths and weaknesses. Round 2 further clarified the purpose and primary audience. Additional feedback was required regarding the inclusion of children aged 3 – 5 years. The results of Round 1 and 2 produced the first draft Framework presented in Round 3, which then provided comprehensive feedback that directed a second draft for the face to face workshop (Round 4). Round 4 provided consensus on key concepts, and identified remaining gaps.

In August 2019 a revised National Swimming and Water Safety Framework was presented at the 3rd National Swimming and Water Safety Symposium.

It consisted of:

- A greater emphasis on water safety knowledge and understanding
- A stronger focus on achieving fundamental skills
- Three stages:
 - Fundamental
 - Acquisition
 - Application
- Three developmental milestones in each stage to enable guided progression and development of skills
- Three National Swimming and Water Safety benchmarks for Children aged 6, 12 and 17.

Components of the Framework



“The Framework was developed with the belief that every individual should have the opportunity to acquire and maintain a minimum standard of water safety competency, with the goal to reduce drowning.”

Framework Stages

FUNDAMENTAL STAGE

An individual may have limited or no experience in swimming and water safety.

The Fundamental Stage is about:

- Developing foundation skills required for more complex motor patterns
- Developing knowledge and understanding around basic water safety concepts
- Establishing rules for safe behaviour when in and around water
- Fostering enjoyment and respect for aquatic environments

DEVELOPMENT
MILESTONE 1

DEVELOPMENT
MILESTONE 2

DEVELOPMENT
MILESTONE 3

ACQUISITION STAGE

An individual is building on the foundation skills through practice and working towards developing the minimum competencies to be safer in and around water.

The Acquisition Stage is about:

- Acquiring and extending skills at greater complexity, duration and distance
- Demonstrating knowledge and understanding of broader water safety concepts
- Demonstrating safe behaviours when in and around water
- Developing a positive approach towards water safety

DEVELOPMENT
MILESTONE 4

DEVELOPMENT
MILESTONE 5

DEVELOPMENT
MILESTONE 6

APPLICATION STAGE

An individual is extending their skill level competency to safely participate in a range of aquatic activities in varying aquatic environments.

The Application Stage is about:

- Consolidating and expanding skills
- Applying and analysing a broad range of water safety concepts
- Developing responsibility for personal safety in aquatic environments
- Displaying a positive approach towards water safety

DEVELOPMENT
MILESTONE 7

DEVELOPMENT
MILESTONE 8

DEVELOPMENT
MILESTONE 9

SWIM MY WAY CONTINUING TO INCREASE SWIMMING ACROSS AUSTRALIA

Developed by UNCLE TOBYS in partnership with the Royal Life Saving, SWIM MY WAY is supporting a variety of swimming programs for Australians of all ages. It's designed to promote access and inclusion to get more Aussies active, having fun and growing their confidence in the water.

SWIM MY WAY gives us the ability to run more programs targeting more Australians in local and community swimming pools throughout the country. That translates directly to boosted water safety and confidence levels, including in inland and regional areas where swimming proficiency can be lower than in metropolitan and coastal areas.

The program supports learn-to-swim and aqua fitness classes, recreational water opportunities and support for the most vulnerable communities.



16,500+
SWIMS FUNDED
& FACILITATED
SINCE MARCH 2018

Below: Alpha, Central Western Queensland.

“We’re privileged to be part of a program that’s all about giving more people the chance to experience the simple joy of being in the water, including older Australians who need a health and confidence boost or people who just haven’t had the opportunity to learn to swim.”

Cate Campbell OAM

Olympic gold medallist and UNCLE TOBYS ambassador



Watch 'Joeseph's Journey' at:
youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust



MOVE IT AUS PARTICIPATION GRANT GETTING AUSSIES ACTIVE IN THE WATER

In April 2019, Royal Life Saving was awarded a \$240,000 Move It AUS Participation Grant from Sport Australia to deliver learn to swim and water safety awareness programs for communities around Australia. These programs are being rolled out from July 2019 to late summer 2020.

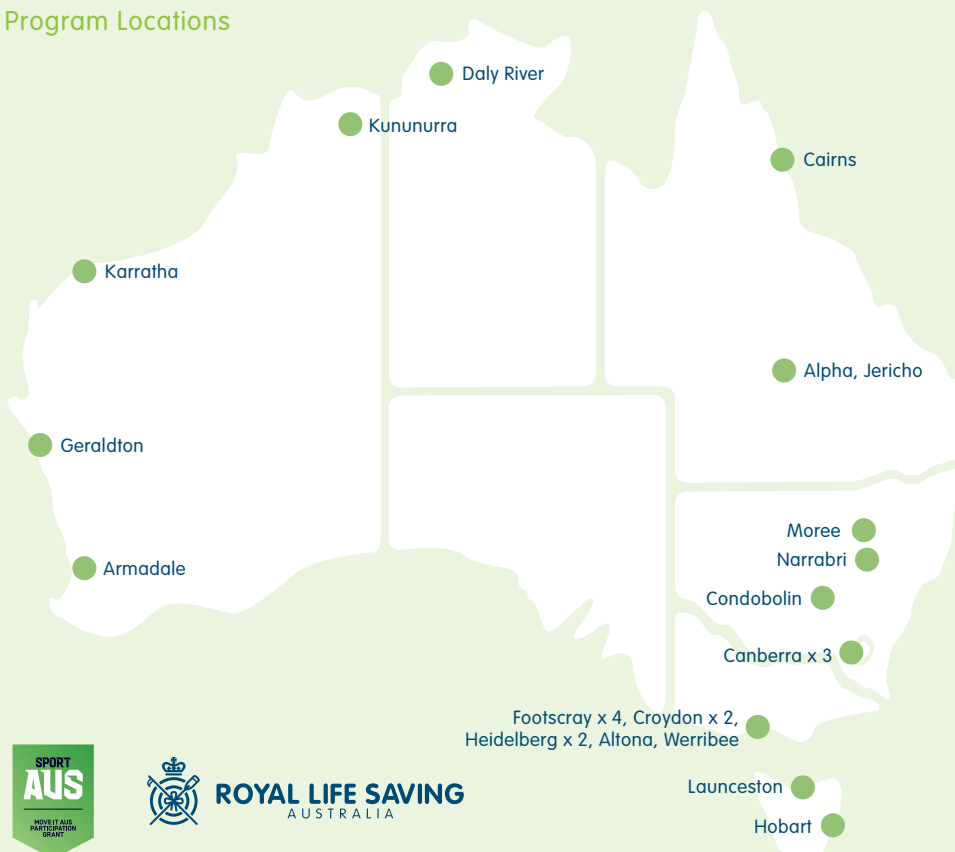
As part of the Royal Life Saving's Swimming Skills for an Active Life project over 1000 people in more than 19 locations will participate. As well as swimming skills and water safety awareness training, the funding will help to remove barriers to participation, such as transport to and from often very remote locations and the cost of lessons, pool entry and equipment such as goggles and caps.

It is a nationwide initiative to support at-risk groups, including Indigenous, and culturally and linguistically diverse communities or those from remote or low-income households to get more active. The diverse program will be adapted for individuals to encourage less sedentary behaviours, while preventing non-communicable diseases, and improving social and mental health outcomes.

Move it AUS is Sport Australia's national awareness campaign encouraging every Australian child and adult to get active. For adults it's 30 minutes and for children at least 60 minutes of physical activity, each day. The Move it AUS Participation grant program provides support to get Australians moving, and improve their physical and mental health.



Program Locations



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: EDUCATION

Swim and Survive

Swim and Survive continues to be a strong program brand with 37 years of history.

The program's unique learning pathway is designed to build strong foundation skills in swimming and water safety, keeping children engaged and most importantly having fun. Over the past 12 months, the Swim and Survive website recorded 44,322 website users and 247,003 page views.

Plans are underway to re-develop the website to improve engagement, communication and ease of finding information and resources, as well as water safety education assets.

Water Smart

The Water Smart classroom resources continue to be popular for schools, swim schools, preschools, and community groups such as scouts.

The Water Smart Education Toolkit is a comprehensive resource for schools to use to teach a unit of water safety. Curriculum materials are available for all students from the Foundation year to Year 10.

Unit outlines with activity descriptors, teacher notes, activity sheets in PDF and SMART Notebook formats, water safety tips, posters and video clips are available.

Bronze e-Lifesaving

Five years since its implementation, Bronze E-Lifesaving continues to be a popular program for schools and organisations teaching lifesaving.

This interactive e-learning program aimed at secondary school students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10, challenges students to explore risk-taking behaviour, personal attitudes and beliefs, personal relationships and to develop skills in making informed decisions, refusal tactics and leadership, as well as teaching survival skills, rescue techniques and basic emergency and first aid care for managing situations where their own or others' wellbeing and safety may be at risk.

463,510

**SWIM AND
SURVIVE
CERTIFICATES**

6,831

**WATER SMART
WEBSITE USERS**

15,341

**BRONZE
E-LIFESAVING
PARTICIPANTS**



Something Eerie App

The development of the Something Eerie App was in full swing over the past year and was launched in August 2019.

Something Eerie is an educational water safety game with a twist and a bit of mystery! The App aims to engage children in learning about water safety in a fun and innovative way. It's aimed at children aged 8-12 years and can be played at home, at school or in the car on the way to swimming lessons!

Players join Ruby and her friends as they embark on six adventures in the town of Eerie Creek. After finding a mysterious journal, they set out to solve the mysteries of creatures that haunt Eerie's waterways. The interactive stories teach players to be prepared, and take precautions to keep safe when in, on and around water, as well as what to do when faced with an emergency. The stories are set in a range of locations including a stormwater drain, river, lake, waterhole, at a farm and waterpark, and highlight the dangers at these locations as well as key water safety tips.



To download Something Eerie App visit:
[App Store](#) or [Google Play](#)



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET)

The VET Committee took on a new name, the Training and Workforce Development Committee, to better reflect the dual focus of the Committee and one of the key projects for 2019-20, the Aquatic Industry Workforce Development Project.

In the first phase of this project the Committee worked collaboratively, and alongside the National Aquatic Industry Safety Committee, to develop and administer a national aquatic industry workforce survey. The survey was made available to the aquatic industry workforce across Australia and this resulted in over 3,000 responses. The findings of the survey have been collated and analysed and a Workforce Profile publication is scheduled for release in Nov-Dec 2019. Following this, the Committee will play a role in further qualitative research and the publication of an Aquatic Industry Workforce Development Plan, scheduled for mid-2020.

The Annual Planning Meeting held in March resulted in a range of other projects being agreed upon with three key projects underway: Conflict Management PD Module; Inland Waterways Lifesaving; and Aquatic Rescue e-Learning.

The Committee again worked collaboratively to update the Lifeguarding Manual (5th Edition) and the First Aid Manual (July 2019) to reflect changes in industry practice and to further enhance the depth and breadth of information provided.

In keeping with our important industry advisory role, Royal Life Saving National Office has been an active member on the Sport and Recreation Industry Reference Committee and the First Aid Industry Reference Committee.

A key highlight Royal Life Saving being awarded Gold for the Best Blended Learning Model at the LearnX Live Awards 2019 for its new Pool Lifeguard e-learning platform. This award recognises the impact of a learning project that uses two or more delivery methods.

Royal Life Saving's e-learning program complements its traditional course materials and face-to-face training with seven interactive modules to test knowledge-based situational learning as well as time-sensitive rapid decision-making.

The platform, created in partnership with Savv-e, a digital learning agency specialising in online learning, was built using Articulate Storyline, and uses interactive features and gamification as well as animations, video and audio. The system is scalable and flexible to allow future development.

Royal Life Saving State and Territory Member Organisations, which run these courses, all contributed to the development of the system, helping to build and design course content.

The aim of the project was to provide highly engaging accessible content that would appeal to a younger generation of learners and a diverse audience, and also prepare those who may have no previous knowledge of lifeguarding. The content includes training on aquatic supervision, risk management, communication and rescue, and aligns with RLSSA's commitment to the Australian Water Safety Strategy.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: SPORT

The online Sport Hub was launched in early 2019; housing new Royal Life Saving developed Pool Lifesaving training courses and resources across coaching, officiating, team management and athlete development. The training courses are also supported by an extensive e-learning library with short courses across topics of communication, project management, risk and safety, leadership, integrity and complaint handling.

Three new positions were added to the National Sport Committee in 2019 with Coach, Official and Athlete Representatives, joining State and Territory representatives on the Committee. The new members provide additional technical expertise and guidance in the areas of pool lifesaving coaching, officiating and athlete development from a grass roots to elite and international level.

The National Sport Committee work together to support Royal Life Saving's sport community and guide the development of sport participation initiatives, fostering pool lifesaving as a vehicle for skills and leadership development across the swimming, lifesaving and water safety pathway.

Royal Life Saving and Surf Life Saving with support from Sport Australia coordinate the Australian Life Saving Team. Royal Life Saving continues to play an integral role in the selection, coordination and management of these teams. Key roles include: Chair of Selectors – Dr Shayne Baker OAM, Collaborative Panel Member: Penny Hodgers; Assistant Coach - Pool, Andrew Bowden; Pathway Pool Coach, Rachele King.





BUILDING A NATION OF LIFESAVERS, THE AUSTRALIAN POOL LIFE SAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019 HOSTED IN SYDNEY IN CELEBRATION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROYAL LIFE SAVING

Over 300 competitors and officials from around the country took part in the 2019 Australian Pool Lifesaving Championships hosted at Pymble Ladies College, Sydney.

The New South Wales State Team claimed the Interstate Overall Championship for the third year in a row. TJ Chong Sue from WA was awarded male lifesaver of the meet for the second year in a row. Anthea Warne from QLD was awarded female lifesaver of the meet for the first time.

“The thing I love most about the Australian Pool Lifesaving Championships are the friendships you forge during the competitions with the athletes you race against. It’s a close knit community [lifesaving], and despite the healthy competitive nature of the titles, there is still so much room for good-natured banter.”

Anthea Warne, Female Lifesaver of the meet

Laerdal proudly sponsor the CPR competition which had strong performances this year with medallists scoring over 95% in each age group. Victoria State Team was awarded the Laerdal Overall CPR Trophy and Tasmania was recognised for their outstanding efforts with an encouragement award.

Below: NSW State Team and Lifesavers of the meet.



“There were a number of new athletes competing in the Championships for the first time. It’s fantastic to watch the sport grow and to see the comradery between the competitors. Many of the experienced athletes support and mentor the younger athletes acting as true role models,” Caitlin Turner, Senior Project Officer – Lifesaving Sport and Development, Royal Life Saving.

Sandra Madeley was awarded Official of the Meet for her proactive and friendly approach as event marshall. Sandra effectively managed the competitors ahead of their events, was adaptable under pressure, and supported the other officials, all while working outside in the 30+ degree heat and always with a smile on her face.

The Australian Pool Lifesaving Championships see lifesavers compete in events including the Manikin Carry, Manikin Tow, Line Throw, Obstacle Swim and the Simulated Emergency Response Competition (SERC) – a timed event where lifesavers are tested on their initiative, judgment, knowledge and skills.

Key Officials

Joanne Teagle (Chief Referee), Mary Veal (CPR Coordinator), Brione Rundle (SERC Coordinator), Norm Stanley and Brendan Watts (Equipment Coordinators).



For the full events results visit:
sport.royallifesaving.com.au



“ The dedication of the officials is incredible. They volunteer their time to support the event and are so passionate about lifesaving sport. We couldn’t do it without them.”



SAFER AQUATIC LOCATIONS

We are championing safety in all aquatic environments through risk management, industry development and training initiatives.



30
NEW GUIDELINES
INTRODUCED & ENDORSED



712+
GSPO SUBSCRIBERS



DELIVERING THE IMPORTANT RESPECT THE RIVER MESSAGE ACROSS AUSTRALIA

Royal Life Saving research revealed that 1,087 people have died from drowning in Australian rivers, creeks and streams in the fifteen years between 1 July 2003 and 30 June 2018.

A further estimated 522 people were hospitalised for a non-fatal drowning incident, many left with a permanent disability. Males accounted for 80% of all drowning deaths (875 fatalities). A contributory level of alcohol and/or drugs was present in 56% of drowning deaths of adult males in rivers.

It is often incorrectly assumed that tourists account for the majority of drowning deaths; however, Royal Life Saving research revealed that 74% of people who drowned in the nation's rivers were considered locals to the area, residing within 100kms of where they drowned.

Conditions in rivers can change rapidly. Just because you might regularly visit an area, doesn't mean the environment will be the same the next time you go.

 Watch Respect the River videos: [youtube.com/RoyallifeSavingAust](https://www.youtube.com/RoyallifeSavingAust)

Campaign

Since 2015 the Australian Government has been working with Royal Life Saving to educate the community about the dangers of inland waterways and how to stay safe in these environments.

"There has been great progress in the reduction of drowning in inland waterways over the past few years. With the continued support of the Australian Government we will continue to save lives across the country," Justin Scarr, CEO, Royal Life Saving.

The Respect the River message has been delivered in each state and territory via a range of local educational programs, events and activities supported by a series of national community service announcements and wide ranging social media activities.

The focus of the campaign in 2018/19 was around three key issues:

1. Impact of drugs and/or alcohol around water
2. Lack of lifejacket use
3. Complacency around water

Top Ten River Drowning Blackspots

1	Murray River	41 deaths
=2	Brisbane River, QLD	25 deaths
=2	Yarra River, VIC	25 deaths
4	Hawkesbury River, NSW	15 deaths
5	Murrumbidgee River, NSW	14 deaths
6	Georges River, NSW	12 deaths
=7	Nepean River, NSW	10 deaths
=7	Parramatta River, NSW	10 deaths
=7	Swan River, WA	10 deaths
=7	Tweed River, NSW/QLD	10 deaths

*Between 1 July 2008 – 30 June 2018



Media Summary



TOTAL MEDIA CLIPS



AUDIENCE



MEDIA VALUE

Facebook | Instagram Summary



1,301,614 IMPRESSIONS

383,218

PEOPLE REACHED

452,191

POST ENGAGEMENTS

Triple M Partnership



\$400,980 RADIO CSA VALUE

Royal Life Saving partnered with Southern Cross Austereo – Triple M Regional Networks. Media activity included:

- TV CSA - Value: \$340,335
- Digital Display – Impressions 1,156,587
- Social media – Reach 99,196 / Video Views 128,637

Youtube Summary

274,389

IMPRESSIONS

89,539

VIDEOS

32.63%

VIEW RATE

Industry average rate 15%

\$0.07

AVERAGE COST PER VIEW

Industry average \$0.10-\$0.30





KEEP WATCH AT PUBLIC POOLS

Keep Watch at Public Pools is an integrated water safety program which aims to increase awareness of the strategies available to keep children safe when in, on or around public pools and aquatic facilities. The ultimate aim of the program is to eliminate all drowning deaths and near drowning incidents that occur in aquatic leisure facilities, public swimming centres and pools.

In the short term it is hoping to increase awareness of strategies to keep children safe, change attitudes about what is appropriate safety at public swimming pools and raise awareness about preventative strategies. It also aims to highlight the need for an increase in parental responsibility, rather than relying on pool lifeguards to babysit children.

Keep Watch at Public Pools has multiple audiences. At one end are the parents and carers who are responsible for the children in their care and at the other are the pool managers who implement safety systems to ensure all who visit the facility are safe, as well as those such as Pool Lifeguards who are charged with ensuring the safety of the facility on a daily basis. As such this program provides a range of resources to help implement safety systems, increase awareness of available strategies and practical tools that people working in facilities can use as well.



“The staff of aquatic facilities play a vital role in educating the community about the safe use of aquatic venues and drowning prevention more widely.”

Philosophy of Keep Watch at Public Pools

To prevent drowning deaths and injuries from occurring at aquatic leisure centres, public swimming centres and pools, a range of actions are required including education, behaviour change, improved management standards and practices, advocacy and changes to the physical environment. These actions require groups and individuals to work together and the greatest effect will occur when more than one of these actions are used concurrently.

Objectives

- Help staff engage with parents and carers of children to help them understand what is appropriate supervision and the dangers of leaving their children unattended at the pool;
- Provide staff with background information and current models and practices to prevent young children from drowning at public pools; and
- Help staff communicate the importance of drowning prevention to parents and carers of children at aquatic facilities.

Insights

Across a 10-year period - 36 fatal drownings occurred in public and commercial pools across Australia. Males accounted for 80.6% of drowning deaths in public and commercial pools, with the largest number of deaths occurring among children aged 5-9 years (19.4%). In more than three quarters of child drowning cases, there was no parental or carer supervision (77.8%). Those who drowned were most likely to be observed by an adult bystander or witness (38.9%) but retrieved from the pool by staff (44.4%), including lifeguards. In two thirds of drowning cases at least one lifeguard was present (66.7%), with other pools being unsupervised community facilities, low patronage pools or pools which do not require a lifeguard (e.g. school pool, fitness centre pool).

Public swimming pools are a valuable facility for local communities, providing space for physical activity, lifelong learning, social interaction and employment opportunities. There is a strong perception of safety at public pools due to the presence of lifeguards. However, parents and carers often take this to mean that adult supervision is not required, leaving children unattended for a period of time.

Royal Life Saving's Keep Watch at Public Pools program addresses this popular misconception with the tagline "Lifeguards are not babysitters". Unfortunately, it would appear that this message has not been received by all visitors to public pools, suggesting a renewed focus is needed as part of a broader public awareness campaign over the next 12 months.

NATIONAL AQUATIC INDUSTRY SAFETY COMMITTEE

A full review of the National Aquatic Industry Safety Committee took place during 2018/19. The review looked at the Committees purpose, objectives and strategy, membership and terms of reference.

Nominations were accepted to a broad range of industry stakeholders including new representation from Royal Life Saving Queensland, Aquatic and Recreation Victoria, Swimming Australia and Recreation South Australia.

National Aquatic Industry Workforce Survey

The National Aquatic Industry Safety Committee commissioned Royal Life Saving to conduct a National Aquatic Industry Workforce Survey and Report. The objectives of the research are to provide greater insights into the Aquatic Industry Workforce, its trends, opportunities and challenges and provide the basis for the development of a National Workforce Strategy.

Over 3,000 employees from across 9 different key professions participated in the 50 question survey and a further 60 participated in specific focus groups with Griffith Universities Behavioral Science unit. In Late 2019 the findings of this research will be published and presented to the National Aquatic Industry Safety Committee.

Supervision Guidelines

Royal Life Saving released the muchly anticipated review of the Supervision section of the Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations. After almost 2.5 years in review and over 612 comments and feedback from industry the Guidelines were released on the 1 November 2018 and became effective as of the 1 September 2019.

The revised Supervision section included a number of key changes which includes:

- Emphasis on Facility Specific Risk Assessment and Supervision Planning
- More descriptive and explanatory to help Aquatic Facilities
- Introduction of 12 New Guidelines
- Rewording and thinking about Low Patronage
- Stronger Emphasis on Children, Older Persons, Non and Weak Swimmers
- Different way of thinking about Low Patronage environments.

A range of presentations and workshops have been facilitated across the country explaining the changes and showcasing case studies of implementation and how it can be applied.





Lifeguard Health and Fitness International Literature Research

Royal Life Saving commissioned the Australian Centre for Public and Population Health Research, Faculty of Health, University of Technology Sydney to undertake a review of national and international lifeguard standards to inform better practice in Lifeguard Health and Fitness requirements.

The overarching aim of the research was to review current occupational standards for performing the role of a pool lifeguard and to determine relevant, evidence-based criteria to establish suitability for this profession in the Health and Fitness requirements.

The Report made 8 specific recommendations that relate to the following key aspects of a Lifeguard:

- Physical Fitness
- Swimming Ability
- Lifeguard Training Qualifications
- Minimum Age
- Visual Impairments
- Hearing Impairments
- Infectious Diseases and Chronic Conditions
- Character Requirements.

In 2019 the research into the fitness components will be validated with qualitative and quantitative based research in a practical setting of aquatic facility scenarios.

National Industry Skills Councils

Royal Life Saving represents the Aquatic Industry in Australia through the First Aid Industry Reference Council and the Sport and Recreation Industry Reference Council.

Royal Life Saving participated in the review of the Outdoor Recreation Training Package, Sports Coaching and Officiating Package and began works into the review of the Fitness and Aquatic Exercise Qualifications and Skill Sets and the First Aid Competencies.

“Australian Lifeguards are world-renown for their high levels of skill and knowledge in accident prevention and rescue response.”



DROWNING PREVENTION LEADERSHIP ABROAD

We are adding our energy, expertise and support to save lives across the region.

Royal Life Savings' actions contribute to achieving the United Nations' (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Developed by Royal Life Saving WA.



World Conference on Drowning Prevention 2019

Royal Life Saving made a significant contribution to the World Conference on Drowning Prevention, held in Durban, South Africa in October 2019. The event hosted over 600 delegates from 64 nations.

Royal Life Saving staff made many outstanding contributions. Justin Scarr CEO was on the organising committee and acted as master of ceremonies and was co-convenor of the scientific program. Amy Peden was Chair of Research Thematic Committee and Craig Roberts, Stacey Pidgeon, Dr Shayne Baker OAM and Dr Richard Franklin PhD chaired conference sessions.

The conference heard about plans to create a UN Declaration on Drowning Prevention. UK based lifesaving charity RNLI, is working to build support for this resolution, to elevate the issue and create momentum for drowning prevention, particularly in nations where the drowning rate can be 15 times higher than in Australia.

Royal Life Saving representatives made many insightful and entertaining presentations including the following key presentations:

Oral Presentations

- Peden AE, Franklin RC, Clemens T (2019).
A Multi-Country Analysis of Drowning Data; Australia, Canada and New Zealand.
- Peden AE, Franklin RC, Leggat PA, (2019).
Using a Delphi Process to Identify River Drowning Prevention Strategies.
- Pearn J, Peden AE, Franklin RC (2019).
Swimming Pools – A Drowning Risk to Elderly.
- Roberts C, (2019)
Strategic Engagement of Industry to effect change across a national landscape
- Roberts C, Demant D, Peden, A (2019).
International Comparison of Lifeguard Qualifications.
- Willcox-Pidgeon S, Franklin RC, Leggat PA, Devine S (2019).
Who drowns in Australia? A 10 Year National Study of Drowning Deaths among Australian migrants.
- Willcox-Pidgeon S, Peden AE (2019).
An analysis of drowning deaths among Australia's First Nations Peoples - Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander People.

Poster Presentations

- Peden AE, Franklin RC, Leggat PA (2019).
Using a delphi process To identify river drowning Prevention strategies.
- Pearn JH, Peden AE, Franklin RC (2019).
Swimming pools: a drowning risk to the elderly.
- Taylor DH, Franklin RC, Peden AE (2019).
Rural and remote drowning - the effect of rural and remote residency on drowning risk: a review of the literature.
- Willcox-Pidgeon S, Roberts C, Scarr J, Larsen P. (2019).
Falling through the gap: Identifying the level of swimming and water safety skills among Australian teenagers.
- Willcox-Pidgeon S, Larsen P, Roberts C (2019).
Reviewing the national swimming and water safety education framework: a drowning prevention strategy.
- Willcox-Pidgeon S, Franklin RC, Leggat PA, Devine S (2019).
High risk populations for drowning in high income countries: identifying a gap in the literature.

International Safety Media Awards 2018

Royal Life Saving was awarded for the Respect the River program an International Safety Media Award (ISMA), held in conjunction with the World Health Organisation's SAFETY 2018 conference in Bangkok, Thailand, 5-7 November 2018.

Safety 2018 and the ISMAs provided a platform to recognize best practice, evidence base, good buys, and proven methods.

Pictured: Dr Amy Peden accepting the award at the World Health Organisation's SAFETY 2018 conference, Thailand.





ORGANISATIONAL COHESION AND GROWTH

Royal Life Saving is continually building upon our 125 year history, our national network and our collective commitment to the Australian community.

2019 marks 125 years since Royal Life Saving first formed in Australia

During 1892 and 1893, following a number of drowning events across New South Wales, meetings were held amongst a number of New South Wales swimming clubs to address the issue. It was unanimously decided at a public meeting to form an Australian Branch of the Life Saving Society of Great Britain on 8 February 1894. A number of events and opportunities were utilised to celebrate our 125th year.



VIP Function at Dicks Hotel, Balmain, 8 February 2019



Life Member Gwen Welford at 125th Anniversary, Black Tie Ball, QLD





STATE AND TERRITORY KEY HIGHLIGHTS

After nearly two years of swimming lessons and industry training, 15 inspiring Somali youth from Melbourne's inner suburbs have graduated from a **Life Saving Victoria** initiative designed to create jobs, raise diversity within the aquatic industry and address the worrying water safety education 'gap' among multicultural communities.

Inspired by two of their friends who 'blazed the trail' in a pilot project a year earlier, the group not only saw pool lifeguarding and swim teaching as a new and attractive employment option, but also a way to give back to their wider community.

The graduates are now working as pool lifeguards and swimming teachers at the Reservoir Leisure Centre, Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre, Coburg Leisure Centre and Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre, in roles that both assist in keeping the community safer and enable them to become positive role models for their peers.



A pilot program that teaches young people water safety and how to identify aquatic hazards was rolled out in Burnie, Tasmania. The two-week program targeted 130, grade 7 and 8 students at Parklands High School.

Royal Life Saving TAS project manager Karina Siggins said it was a proactive approach to help young people make safer aquatic decisions. The Swimming and Water Safety program taught students survival strokes, how to perform an aquatic rescue and how to identify hazards such as submerged objects.



During 2018/19, **Royal Life Saving NSW** in partnership with the NSW Government launched the Early Childhood Water Safety program, an innovative online educational resource providing the early childhood sector with a modern, engaging and relevant initiative to reinforce safety agenda and aquatic behaviour amongst young children and their parents/carers.

The education resource initiative was developed to address the fatal and non-fatal drownings of 0-5-year old's around backyard swimming pools. Its two key strategies firstly targeted young children 3-5 years via early childhood services and secondly, the parents and carers of these children.

Designed in consultation with early childhood educationalists and academia, the online solution utilises animation focusing on backyard swimming pools to convey safety messaging to children. Themes focus on behaviour and rules and include key supervisory expectations and pool rules within a suitable age specific curriculum context.

313

**PRESCHOOLS
REGISTERED**



The Swim 4 Life holiday program by **Royal Life Saving ACT** provides equitable access opportunities for children to participate in a variety of aquatic programs regardless of their background or financial situation.

Over 1,300 participants, who may otherwise have missed out on basic water safety education, have been nominated by local community groups and ACT Primary Schools since it was first established in 2010. 490 participants took part in the program this year.

24,042

CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN NT WATER SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAM SINCE INCEPTION

Royal Life Saving NT Water Safety Awareness Program, funded by the NT Government, provided a fantastic opportunity for families to access free water safety lessons for their children.

This year 2,222 enrolments were received with 13 providers operating across the NT. The NT Government have extended the program with the Learn to Swim Vouchers and this has been positively received by families across the NT. A 15 year evaluation of the Water Safety Awareness program has been completed.

In partnership with Autism SA, Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre and UNCLE TOBYS, Royal Life Saving SA provided children and young people with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) the opportunity to take part in a five-day inclusive program as part of the Swim My Way program.

Swimming is not only important for drowning prevention but also good for health. The program helped students feel more confident in the water, and learn the skills to be able to join the other students in school swimming carnivals and continue to swim independently.



Royal Life Saving QLD is proudly working with partners to deliver water safety programs to multicultural communities. With those born overseas having a higher risk of drowning, Royal Life Saving QLD are working with Multicultural Queensland, Various Local Governments, Larger facility operators, and Specialist State Government Schools to deliver these programs.

Working with their partners Royal Life Saving QLD has developed various short courses and longer term programs based on the Swim and Survive program to assist people to learn to swim and survive.



Royal Life Saving WA hosted a Pilbara Water Safety Forum in May at the Wanangkura Stadium in Port Hedland. The event brought together water safety advocates across a range of government, community and local industry groups to discuss water safety issues in the Pilbara region and create a plan to save lives into the future.

There has been a 29% increase in the number of drowning deaths in the Pilbara over the past decade, with males, toddlers and young people aged 15-24 at greatest risk, while Aboriginal Australians are twice as likely to drown as non-Aboriginal Australians. Many of these deaths have occurred at inland waterways and during participation in activities such as fishing, boating and outback adventures.

Royal Life Saving has been active in the Pilbara for many years, working with partners including BHP, the Department of Communities, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Healthway and the Town of Port Hedland.

“WA’s regional areas continue to be over-represented in drowning deaths. Local understanding of this serious and preventable issue is crucial, and the Pilbara Forum has enabled local stakeholders to be part of the solution.”

Peter Leaversuch, CEO, Royal Life Saving WA

Royal Life Saving WA is working to formulate these ideas into a Pilbara Water Safety Plan, which will guide future water safety priorities, strategies and initiatives in the region.



PEOPLE AND CULTURE

Our people are our most essential asset, they bring commitment, energy, skills and reach into communities across the nation. Investing in them, bringing clear purpose, the resources they need, building partnerships and fostering innovation, will all amplify their impact.



40
LIFE MEMBERS



01
NEW LIFE MEMBER



ROYAL LIFE SAVING NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE

A two day Operational Planning Workshop was hosted in Sydney in March 2019, bringing together key Royal Life Saving team members from across Australia. Team members included members from the Executive Leadership Team, Water Safety Education Committee, Vocational Education Training Committee, Research Committee, Inland Waterways Committee and Marketing and Communications Committee.

Workshop Objectives

- Operational Planning for 2019-2020
- Foster the National, State and Territory network
- Invest in the skills, commitment and alignment of our people
- Foster innovation, commitment, respect and accountability

Workshop Program Snapshot

Changing times, emerging trends: Responding strategically to the megatrends

This session provided a strategic analysis of the key global and local trends transforming the business and consumer landscape, including technological trends, demographic shifts, household wealth, lifestyle expectations, social change, and generational transitions.

Gen Z and Gen Alpha: Understanding and engaging the next generations

There are 4.6 million reasons to engage Gen Z and 2.6 million reasons to connect with Gen Alpha. Those born since 1995 have lived their whole formative lives in the 21st Century, shaped by wearable technology, automated cars and voice recognition software.

They are sizable, digital, global, visual and social. Their lives are post-lifestage, their thinking post-logical, their learning post-linear and their careers post-structural. In this session it was outlined how educators, employers, and marketers can best engage with the most formally educated, technologically literate and materially endowed generation in history.

Eliane Miles, Founding Director, Curious Co

Day One - Workshop Sessions: Cross Cutting Themes; Rivers, Lifesaving in High Schools and Multicultural Communities

Day Two - Operational Working Groups; Safer Aquatic Locations; Research, Advocacy and Policy; Community Awareness and Action; and Swimming, Lifesaving and Water Safety

“Bringing together such a talented, motivated and highly skilled group of leaders from across Royal Life Saving has so many benefits, new connections, new ideas and a deeper commitment to working collaborative to maximise our collective impact.”

Justin Scarr, CEO, Royal Life Saving





OUR NEW PATRON

Royal Life Saving is honoured to welcome His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, as our new Patron.

In a statement His Excellency writes "A hot summer day spent swimming in the river or creek or having fun around the pool are iconic Australian images and familiar to so many. That is why Royal Life Saving Australia's vision of a nation free from drowning should resonate with all of us. Through their advocacy, leadership, practical support and so much more, Royal Life Saving Australia have made and continue to make a profound difference and contribution to our nation. I am delighted to become their Patron and look forward to working closely with staff, supporters and volunteers over the next five years."

In welcoming His Excellency's patronage, Royal Life Saving Australia President, Mr Cameron Eglinton, said "We value His Excellency's support as we deliver drowning prevention, lifesaving, and swimming and water safety programs throughout Australia."

TOM BALLANTYNE AWARDED LIFE MEMBER

Tom Ballantyne has been involved with Royal Life Saving Society WA since 1985. He started in lifesaving, with his involvement being at a club and state level. He was then asked if he wished to compete at State Championships in the sport of Pool Lifesaving.

It was from there that he then obtained the following qualifications with RLSSWA: Bronze Medallion, Bronze Cross, Award of Merit, Distinction, Diploma, Teacher of Lifesaving, Level One Coach and Chief Examiner.

Tom was heavily involved in Mayland's Yokine Swimming and Lifesaving Club which when it closed went onto become Central Aquatics. Tom is still involved in coaching and delivering Bronze strand courses at this club.

During the 1990's Tom was involved with the state team in both a coaching and competitor capacity. He was also the Director of Sport and a Board Member. In 1997 he was both coaching and competing when WA won the State Championships.



QUEEN'S HONOUR

John McClelland AM, Life Member and Life Governor of Royal Life Saving Society – Australia, has been awarded the Member of the Order of Australia for services to the community through Royal Life Saving Society in Queensland (RLSSQ) in the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours list.

John has been the longest serving President of RLSSQ in its 114 year history, holding office from 1996 to 2015, and has been actively involved with the Ithaca-Caloundra City Life Saving Club since joining in 1964. He has been involved in all aspects of Royal Life Saving at club, state, national and international levels, volunteering his time on committees, and taking part in fundraising, patrolling, training and administering competition events. John has been a Board Member at RLSSQ since 1973, and served as Deputy President, Secretary, Treasurer, Club Liaison Office and awarded Life Membership in 1995.

He was awarded by Royal Life Saving Society – Australia - Life Member in 2000 and Life Governor in 2015, and an Honorary Life Member of the Royal Life Saving Society Commonwealth in 2003.

At the 1998 World Lifesaving Championships along with three others, the team won the silver medal for the Simulated Emergency Rescue Competition.

In 1999, Tom was asked if he would travel to India to set up coaching clinics in PUNE India developing a Pool Lifeguard Program.

In more recent times Tom continues to deliver Bronze medallion courses and coaches at Central Aquatic. He has been an advisor for our Royal Life Saving Bravery Awards Committee and he has delivered bronze medallion courses on the Swan River as a part of the Respect the River Program and is an advisor for the Sport of Pool Lifesaving.

He volunteers his time to help out with course delivery, family fun day programs and community initiatives. He continues to deliver courses, mentor upcoming lifesavers and assist with a wide range of course/ programs that RLSSWA delivers.

GOVERNANCE

The National Board is the governing body of Royal Life Saving Society - Australia comprising of the President and Directors. Each State and Territory Member Organisation elects a Director to represent them.

The National President and Deputy President are elected from the National Board membership to serve a one year term of office.

The National Board is responsible for the transparent, accountable governance of Royal Life Saving and for policy making and setting strategic direction.

Patron

His Excellency General the Honourable
Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) (To June 2019)

His Excellency General the Honourable
David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor-General of the
Commonwealth of Australia (From August 2019)

National Board of Directors

CAMERON EGLINGTON M Ed; B.P.E, Dip. Teach, PE.
President

Cameron joined the Board in June 2013 representing Royal Life Saving Society Western Australia. Cameron was confirmed as National President October 2018.

PENELOPE SNASHALL B.Bus
Deputy President

President, Royal Life Saving Society – Australia, Tasmania. Pene was appointed as a Director November 2013. Pene was confirmed as Deputy President in October 2018.

THE HON TERENCE JOHN HIGGINS AO

Director, Royal Life Saving Society Australia, Australian Capital Territory. Terry was appointed as a Director in April 2009.

JIM WHITESIDE

President, Royal Life Saving Society Australia, New South Wales. Jim was appointed to the Board in October 2016.

LESLIE MOLE JP

President, Royal Life Saving Society Queensland. Les was appointed as a Director in April 2009.

JAMES WITHER

President Royal Life Saving Society Australia – South Australia. James was appointed to the Board in October 2017 and resigned as Director in October 2018.

ALAN EVERS-BUCKLAND

Director, Royal Life Saving Society Australia, Victoria. Alan was appointed as a Director October 2018.

DIANNE MONTALTO ESM

President, Royal Life Saving Society Australia, Victoria. Dianne was appointed as a Director in April 2009. Dianne's term as Director expired October 2018, after 10 years service, in accordance with the terms of the Constitution.

BELINDA LAWTON

Director, Royal Life Saving Society Australia, Northern Territory. Belinda was appointed as a Director October 2018.

RANDALL COOK B.Ed; Grad Dip ED Management

President, Royal Life Saving Society, Northern Territory. Randall was appointed as a Director in April 2009. Randall's term as Director expired in October 2018, after 10 years service, in accordance with the terms of the Constitution.

FRANCINE KINKADE BAcc; LLB (Hons)

Independent Director appointed to the Board in February 2018.

MITCHELL HARTMAN B Sc; MBBS

Independent Director appointed to the Board in February 2018.

JUSTIN SCARR MBA B.Ed

Justin has been a senior executive for the past 21 years, and was appointed as Chief Executive Officer, and Company Secretary in January 2013.

National Advisers

Education and Training	Dr Shayne Baker OAM
Sport	Robert Reid (To Nov 18) David Macallister (From Mar 19)
Medical	Professor John Pearn AO RFD
Legal	The Hon. Terence Higgins AO

National Finance and Audit Committee

ACT	Anthony Bandle (Chair)
NSW	Jim Whiteside
QLD	James McClelland

Executive Leadership Team

ACT	Cherry Bailey
NSW	Michael Ilinsky
NT	Floss Roberts
QLD	Paul Barry
SA	Jayne Minear
TAS	Karina Siggins
VIC	Nigel Taylor
WA	Peter Leaversuch

National Sport Committee

ACT	Cherry Bailey
NSW	Ben Fishburn
NT	Laura Withers
QLD	Kate Forrester
SA	Kelly Maidment
VIC	Anne-Maree Gardiner
WA	Tom Ballantyne
OFFICIAL	Roz Grey OAM
COACH	Jeannie Baxter Reid
ATHLETE	Jake Smith
NAT	Caitlin Turner Robert Reid (To Nov 18) David Macallister (From Mar 19)

Honours Committee

NSW	Roz Grey OAM (Chair)
NT	Daphne Read AO
QLD	James McClelland
SA	Brione Rundle
VIC	Dianne Montalto ESM
NAT	Rhonda Groneman

National Office

Chief Executive Officer

Justin Scarr

Operations

National Manager Operations

Craig Roberts

National Manager Events and Marketing

Monique Sharp

National Communications Executive

Lucy Rae (To May 19)

Kavita Bowry (From May 19)

Senior Project Officer – Grants, Tenders and Partnerships

Shannon Taylor (To July 19)

National Manager Research and Policy

Amy Peden (To June 19)

Senior Project Officer - Research and Policy (To June 19)

National Manager Research and Policy (From July 19)

Vulnerable populations, activities and water safety

Stacey Pidgeon

National Manager Research and Policy (From July 19)

Fatal and Non-fatal drowning, Policy and Planning,
Aquatic Industry

Alison Mahony

Senior Project Officer – Research and Policy

Danielle Taylor (From Nov 18)

Senior Project Officer – Research and Policy

Keeley Allen (From Jul 19)

Senior Research Fellow

Dr Richard Franklin

Dr Amy Peden (From July 19)

National Manager Education and Training

Penny Larsen

Senior Project Officer – Aquatic Industry and Education

Thea Harrild

National Manager, Training and Workforce Development

Shaun Jackson

Project Officer - IT

Chris Groneman

Project Officer – Lifesaving Sport and Development

Caitlin Turner

Finance and Administration

National Manager Finance

Rhonda Groneman

Administration and Accounts Officer

Sunny Fung

Accounting Support

Bree Connolly

GOVERNANCE

Royal Life Saving Society - Australia

Life Governors

2015 John McClelland AM (QLD)
2015 Alan B. Swinton OAM QPM (TAS)
2018 Daphne Read AO (NT)

Life Members

1995 Neville Bayfield OAM (NSW)
1995 Gerald Brameld OAM (QLD)
1998 Victor John Dennis (WA)
1998 Ian Mackie AM (NAT)
1998 Gwendolyn Welford BEM(C) (QLD)
1999 Alan B. Swinton OAM QPM (TAS)
2000 V.J Forde AM (SA)
2000 John McClelland AM (QLD)
2002 Heather MacGowan OAM (WA)
2004 Theresa Leopold (SA)
2004 Faye Trevor (SA)
2005 Lesley Bartlett (SA)
2005 Professor John Pearn AO RFD (QLD)
2005 Patricia Quick (SA)
2006 Jan Burton (SA)
2006 C Dedman (SA)
2006 David Dewar (SA)
2006 Raymond M Martin OAM (SA)
2006 Vincent McStraw (SA)
2006 Mark Needham (SA)
2006 Ann Price (SA)
2007 John Kew (SA)
2007 Hayden Lamshed (SA)
2007 Faye Milham (SA)
2008 Dorothy E Brown OAM (NSW)
2009 Rod Welford (QLD)
2010 The Hon. Terence Higgins AO QC (ACT)
2010 Dianne Montalto ESM (VIC)
2010 Barbara Morgan OAM (VIC)
2010 Karen Freak (SA)
2011 Robyn Pryce-Jones (TAS)
2013 Anne-Maree Gardiner (VIC)
2013 Gary W Kearney (TAS)
2013 Sandra Vander Pal (VIC)
2014 Les Mole (QLD)
2014 Daphne Read AO (NT)
2016 Ernita McGrath (NSW)
2016 Glenda Bowen Pain AM (SA)
2017 Dr Shayne Baker OAM (QLD)
2018 Tom Ballantyne (WA)

Past Presidents

1934-1951 Sir Thomas W White
1951-1977 Justice Percy Joske
1977-1979 Sir Percy Joske
1979-1987 Sir Basil Osborne CBE
1987-1994 Neville Bayfield OAM
1994-1997 Heather MacGowan OAM
1997-2003 Chief Justice Terence Higgins AO QC
2003-2009 Dr Shayne Baker OAM
2009-2011 Chief Justice Terence Higgins AO QC
2011-2012 Les Mole JP
2012-2015 Dianne Montalto ESM
2015-2018 Pene Snashall

International Life Saving Organisations

International Life Saving Federation (ILS)

President
Graham Ford (Australia)

Secretary General
Dr Harald Vervaecke (Belgium)

ILS Asia-Pacific President
Norman Farmer ESM

Committee Membership

Justin Scarr
Drowning Prevention Commissioner,
ILS Asia-Pacific Secretary General, World Conference
on Drowning Prevention 2019 Convenor

Professor John Pearn AO RFD
Medical Committee

Dr Amy Peden
Drowning Prevention Commission

Dr Shayne Baker OAM
Rescue Commission

Anne-Maree Gardiner
Sport Commission

Commonwealth Royal Life Saving Society

President
H.R.H Prince Michael of Kent

Deputy Commonwealth President
Clive Holland

Commonwealth Secretary
Emma Harrison

Committee Membership

Pene Snashall
Board of Trustees

Anne-Maree Gardiner
Portfolio Director Development through Sport

Dr Shayne Baker OAM
Portfolio Director Capacity Building

James McClelland
Heritage Working Group

Dianne Montalto ESM (To Feb 19)
Daphne Read AO (From Feb 19)
Commonwealth Honours Committee

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The National Board of Directors for Royal Life Saving Society – Australia continues to maintain a sound and secure financial position.

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME for the year ended 30 June 2019

	2019	2018
Revenue	4,546,342	4,590,938
Fundraising	86,452	95,340
Other Income	54,822	57,381
Total Income	\$4,687,616	\$4,743,659
Expenses		
Management and Administration expenses	671,236	963,260
Fundraising	86,452	109,485
Media Meeting and Promotional Expenses	557,610	373,248
Programs and Program Support	3,267,120	3,157,724
Amortisation and Depreciation	54,733	66,172
Total Expenses	\$4,637,151	\$4,669,889
Total Comprehensive income attributable to the Members of RLSSA	\$50,466	\$73,769

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as at 30 June 2019

	2019	2018
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	3,188,322	3,010,933
Receivables	157,075	154,654
Inventories	96,098	136,171
Other	55,249	34,850
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$3,496,744	\$3,336,608
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	1,770,787	1,832,903
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	\$1,770,787	\$1,832,903
TOTAL ASSETS	\$5,267,531	\$5,169,511
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors and borrowings	2,349,193	2,397,515
Provisions	947,993	846,425
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$3,297,186	\$3,243,940
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors and borrowings	8,798	14,490
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$8,798	\$14,490
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$3,305,984	\$3,258,430
NET ASSETS	\$1,961,547	\$1,911,081
RETAINED FUNDS		
Retained surplus	1,425,771	1,375,305
Asset revaluation reserve	535,776	535,776
TOTAL RETAINED FUNDS	\$1,961,547	\$1,911,081

A copy of the audited financial statements for Royal Life Saving Society – Australia is available upon request.

OUR PARTNERS

Royal Life Saving Society – Australia would like to thank the following organisations for their continued support.

Australian Government



Australian Government

Corporate Sponsors



Laerdal
helping save lives

Industry Partners



Media Partners

studio
one
another




BUZZ FILMS



Other Supporters



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PATENT AND TRADE MARK ATTORNEYS
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAWYERS

aXcelerate







ROYAL LIFE SAVING
AUSTRALIA



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