



ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018

A NATION FREE
FROM DROWNING



ROYAL LIFE SAVING
AUSTRALIA





OUR VISION

“A 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 2017/2018

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



“Our stakeholders require increasingly robust accountability, and whatever future role I play with this outstanding organisation, I will encourage, cajole and speak for the importance of collaborating, sharing ideas and resources, and leveraging the talent and expertise we have within the organisation.”

It is with a sad heart but one full of great pride that I introduce my third and final Royal Life Saving Society - Australia (RLSSA) Annual Report and once again pay tribute to the many achievements, of many people, across our country.

I wrote this message following a visit to Canberra where I joined with my Surf Life Saving Australia counterpart, President, Graham Ford and the Federal Sports Minister, the Hon Bridget McKenzie to launch the 2018 National Drowning Report. Graham and I both spoke about the importance of collaboration across the sector.

This year I have also worked with my Commonwealth colleagues, sharing knowledge and expertise to reduce drowning deaths across our Commonwealth partner nations. My effort has been small compared to the many RLSSA volunteers who are quietly going about their business, delivering training and sharing their ideas with swimming and lifesaving organisations in many Asia Pacific countries. The list of people is long but you know who you are and I appreciate the dedication you give to our overseas colleagues who are less-resourced than us.

I will miss the quality, professional contact with our CEO, Justin Scarr, who remains an excellent advocate for all of us. Combined with the efforts of State and Territory teams, through his continued leadership and maintenance of strong relationships with key political and business stakeholders, Justin was instrumental in the sector gaining an improved Inland Waterways contract with the Federal Government including longer term government funding. In talking to government and sector lobbyists it is clear that through the hard work of our entire senior management team, across all States and Territories, our reputation of delivering sound research, targeted training and quality education programs is achieving results.

This is equally the case for our research team who once again produced a number of critically important research outcomes. This data isn't just numbers; it reflects lives lost and lives impacted by drowning and also serves as an incredibly powerful tool to lobby government and our other funders for further investment.

To our State and Territory members, once again thank you for reaching out to so many Australians with the important message of drowning prevention. Over the last few years, the success of many programs, including Respect the River, Don't Let Your Mates Drink and Drown and Keep Watch, is a reflection of your hard-work, perseverance and local leadership.

I extend my appreciation and thanks to my fellow national board directors for their insight and guidance, in particular, our outgoing Deputy President, Randall Cook and Director, Dianne Montalto ESM. We have all shared in the success of both our National and State and Territory members, and we have all shared your desire for constant improvement.

As with any successful organisation, our people are our strength – volunteers, paid employees, board members, casual trainers – these are people who regardless of where they live, remain focussed on one goal; that of drowning prevention. Again, at the Australian Pool Life Saving Championships, the passion and professionalism of our people was on show; not just the many volunteer officials but the competitors, their coaches and families.

None more so than Dr Shayne Baker OAM who was awarded Life Member. Shayne's commitment to quality training and mentoring younger members of our family is mirrored in so many others who are working across our States and Territories.

We are an amazing bunch of people; bought together with many diverse backgrounds and ideas but all sharing the one passion; to reduce drowning deaths across our country. Please remember that; we are doing great things across many communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to be your President.

PENE SNASHALL

National President

Royal Life Saving Society – Australia

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



“I wish to thank all of the Royal Life Saving team, their commitment to doing great things, being innovative, and working collaboratively.”

Royal Life Saving Society - Australia (RLSSA) continues to make substantial progress in many areas of drowning prevention policy and research through the programs and projects supported by the national office team and delivered by our Royal Life Saving colleagues.

The following examples reinforce our commitment to innovative, inclusive and evidence based leadership:

- Our continued investments in research and policy produced many reports and articles, and underpinned our advocacy. The metrics are impressive, with rates of data sharing from Government, Coroners, media and the sector are a strong indicator of our valuable contribution to the Australian community. In December we trialled a “Summer Drowning Toll” as a strategy to influence accuracy in reporting drowning over summer. The results were excellent, so look out for its expansion during Summer 2018/19.
- The research team conducted a review of progress against the objectives of the Australian Water Safety Strategy 2016-2020 for Government. This review generated significant insights into areas where progress is being made including in reducing drowning in children under five, in inland waterways and in our understanding of the burden of non-fatal drowning.
- The communications team has expanded the Men Don’t Let your Mates Drink and Drown and Respect the River campaigns which stand out for their energetic and innovative approaches to reaching new audiences.
- The re-development of the Guidelines for Safe Pool Operation and the Aquatic Industry Safety Awards continued to strengthen our engagement and support for the aquatic industry.
- A second National Swimming and Water Safety Symposium, in May 2018, focused on redeveloping the National Swimming and Water Safety Framework.
- RLSSA hosted a regional drowning prevention workshop with the World Health Organisation’s Western Pacific Regional Office. We welcomed delegates from countries including Vietnam, Cambodia, Fiji, Philippines and China.

In February 2018, we launched a new partnership with UNCLE TOBY’S, focusing on promoting the many benefits of swimming, with an emphasis on communities that might otherwise miss out.

We thank our Keep Watch partner Protector Aluminium, who help to bring the messages of Keep Watch to the community via their pool fencing and gate hardware products. They also support our child drowning research to promote drowning prevention awareness.

We wish to acknowledge the support of Government and Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie, Minister for Regional Services, Sport, Local Government and Decentralisation, who replaced the Hon Greg Hunt MP in December 2017. Minister McKenzie announced new water safety funding for RLSSA, Surf Life Saving Australia and AUSTSWIM in May 2018. We thank them both for their strong commitment to our work.

Our national advisors; Prof John Pearn AO RFD (Medical/Research), Dr Shayne Baker OAM (Education and Training), and Rob Reid (Sport) continue to provide advice and mentoring of staff and volunteers. We acknowledge their tremendous impact on our collective achievements.

I wish to thank all of the RLSSA team, their commitment to doing great things, being innovative, and working collaboratively. I especially thank the executive team; Rhonda Groneman, Monique Sharp, Amy Peden, and Craig Roberts for their committed leadership.

Finally I wish to acknowledge the Board, our President Pene Snashall and Deputy President Randall Cook, the Finance and Audit Committee, Honours Committee and the CEOs and staff of our members for their ongoing guidance and support over the past twelve months.

JUSTIN SCARR

Chief Executive Officer
Royal Life Saving Society - Australia

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2016-2020

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 will 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



**“SOLUTIONS TO BIG
ISSUES ARE BEST
BUILT WITH OTHERS”**





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.



22 CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

02	GOVERNMENT SUBMISSIONS MADE
02	EXPERT ADVICE AND CORONIAL INQUESTS
04	AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION
11	BOARD/ADVISORY PANELS
95	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) working closely with foundation members Surf Life Saving Australia and AUSTSWIM. With a strong commitment to water safety Royal Life Saving directs significant resources towards the implementation of the Australia Water Safety Strategy and reducing fatal drowning by 50% by the year 2020.

With 2020 only two years away, Royal Life Saving has been tracking progress against this goal, to identify areas where interventions have been successful and those where additional effort is urgently required. A range of factors have impacted the achievability of the 50% reduction target. These include changes in the size and make-up of the Australian population, which is increasingly older and features larger numbers of tourists and overseas born residents (see Factors impacting achievement).

In order to partially adjust for the changes in our target population, the graphics below show progress in the rate of drowning per 100,000 people.

To avoid overstating the effects of one year peaks and troughs, these figures compare 3 year averages from the start (2002/03–2004/05) to our most recent data (2015/16–2017/18) for the four key life stages outlined in the Australian Water Safety Strategy 2016–2020.

The reduction in drowning rates achieved so far is shown in each graphic as a percentage. This interim analysis shows an overall 26% reduction in fatal drowning since 2002/03. This reduction equates to approximately 102 fatal drownings averted per year.

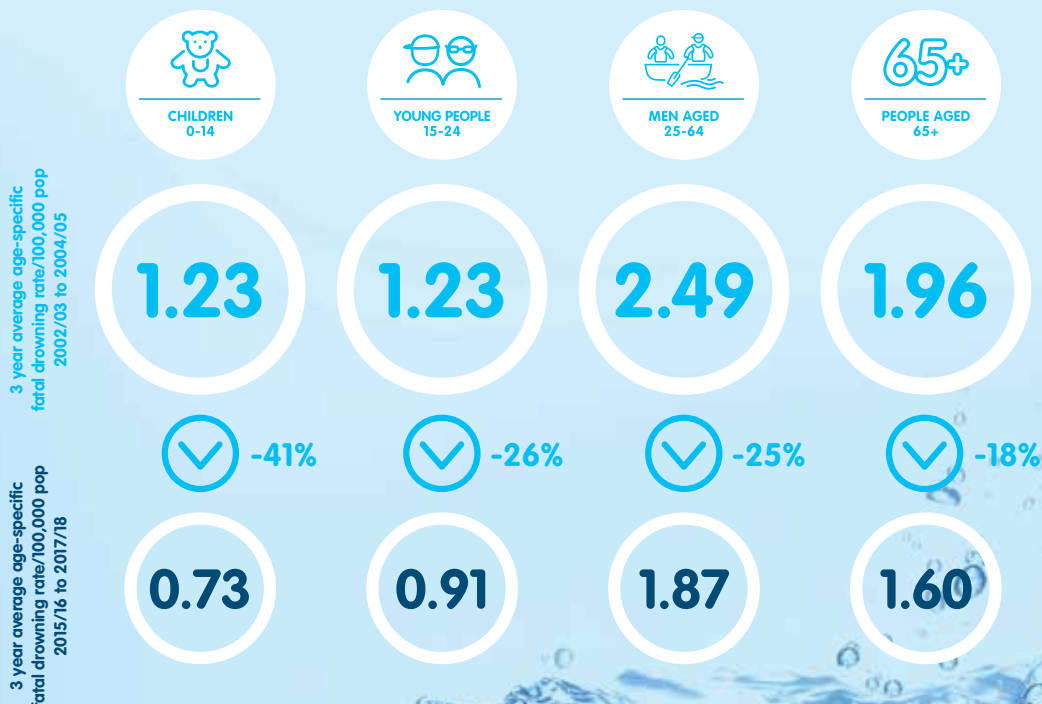
This population-based approach takes into account changes in the size of the population being protected, and is consistent with how we monitor most other public health outcomes.

Factors impacting achievement

Since 2002/03 there has been a:

- 28% population increase
- 55% population increase in people aged 65+
- 71% increase in people born overseas
- 71% increase in overseas inbound tourism
- 100% increase in international students

PROGRESS IN REDUCING DROWNING BY 50% BY 2020



LONGER-TERM GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR WATER SAFETY AND DROWNING PREVENTION

After an extensive review, the Federal Government announced in April, longer-term funding for Water Safety and Drowning Prevention.

“This longer-term funding will allow Royal Life Saving to expand our work aimed at reducing drowning. Key areas of development will include drowning prevention in inland waterways, sector leading research, continuing our focus on children and communities who miss out on learning to swim and survive, and risk management standards for the aquatic industry” Justin Scarr, CEO, Royal Life Saving.

Working in collaboration, Royal Life Saving 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 Wednesday 12 September 2018. The reports were released by the Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie, Minister for Regional Services, Sport, Local Government and Decentralisation.

For the 2017/18 financial year there were 249 drowning deaths across Australia. Including: 110 in coastal waters; 61 at rivers, creeks and streams; 33 in swimming pools; and 20 in lakes, dams, and lagoons.

This was a 14% reduction on 2016/17 and an 11% reduction on the ten year average.

This is the lowest number of drowning deaths ever recorded in Australia. These figures show that drowning prevention initiatives continue to reduce the impacts of drowning across most waterways and age groups. However, we cannot be complacent about water safety. Minister for Sport, Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie said the Coalition Government is committed to reducing drowning in Australia.

“

I urge all Australians to watch their children around water, swim at patrolled beaches between the red and yellow flags, to wear lifejackets when on boats and watercraft, avoid alcohol around water and to teach their children about swimming and water safety. We are a nation of water lovers and thanks to decades of campaigning we have brought our drowning rates down – but we need to move the dial even further.”

Senator the Honorable Bridget McKenzie, Minister for Regional Services, Sport, Local Government and Decentralisation

Below: Parliament House Canberra - Pene Snashall, President RLSSA; Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie; Graham Ford AM, President SLSA.



SUMMER DROWNING TOLL

In response to increased rates of drowning last summer, particularly between Christmas and New Year, where the drowning rate was four times the average, Royal Life Saving developed a range of resources 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 1,300 page views from 15 December 17 to 28 February 18, with media reporting on the key statistics and with the important reminder and drowning prevention messages from Royal Life Saving.





ROYAL LIFE SAVING HOST SECOND NATIONAL SWIMMING AND WATER SAFETY SYMPOSIUM

Royal Life Saving has been concerned about evidence of the declining swimming and water safety skills of children. We have been particularly concerned about barriers preventing children from accessing swimming and water safety education, the level of achievement attained and what happens to those who miss out entirely.

Over the past 12 months following the first National Swimming and Water Safety Education Symposium convened by Royal Life Saving in April 2017, much work has been undertaken:

- A National Swimming and Water Safety Education Reference Group has been formed;
- Work to redevelop the National Swimming and Water Safety Framework has commenced;
- A range of commitments by Governments to education and vacation programs have been made;
- Research into understanding swimming and water safety achievement levels has continued;
- Initiatives to provide greater access to those 'at risk' and who miss out have increased;
- Media focus on a range of swimming and water safety issues has increased.

Royal Life Saving convened the second National Swimming and Water Safety Education Symposium in Sydney from 9-10 May 2018.

The second Symposium continued the open and collaborative approach by bringing together 55 representatives from Government, Industry, Private Sector and Academia to continue the discussion, present new research, review achievements and facilitate group workshops.

DISCUSSION CENTRED ON THE SYMPOSIUM OBJECTIVES:

1. Support Australian Water Safety Strategy Goal 1 – Reduce Drowning deaths in Children Aged 0-14 years and Goal 2 – Reduce Drowning deaths in Young People Aged 15-24 years, specifically key objectives vi. & vii. relating to swimming and water safety education and ii. relating to participation in lifesaving education programs during secondary school years, respectively.
2. Continue to engage and collaborate with a range of key stakeholders from across Industry, Government, Private Sector and Academia.
3. Report on progress against the 1st Symposium Statements and Actions.
4. Facilitate presentations and workshop discussions including the revision of the National Swimming and Water Safety Framework.

The Symposium provided an opportunity to present the second draft of the National Swimming and Water Safety Framework, address topics of swimming and water safety for the Under 5's and children with disabilities and further explore participation in swimming and lifesaving beyond primary school.

Swimming and water safety education programs are not only essential for drowning prevention, but also offer many health and social benefits.

“WORKING TOGETHER, WE WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO EDUCATION PROGRAMS, AND INCREASE CHILDREN’S SWIMMING AND LIFESAVING SKILLS.”



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.



35,236

RESEARCH REPORT
ONLINE PAGE VIEWS



6,752

NATIONAL CORONIAL
INFORMATION SYSTEM
SEARCHES

11 REPORTS PUBLISHED

13 ACADEMIC ARTICLES PUBLISHED

60 DATA REQUESTS PROVIDED





ROYAL LIFE SAVING NATIONAL DROWNING REPORT 2018

The Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report 2018 found that there were 249 drowning deaths in aquatic locations across Australia between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2018.

This was a 14% reduction on 2016/17 and an 11% reduction on the ten year average.

Further, it is estimated there were 551 hospitalisations resulting from non-fatal drowning incidents across Australia between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2018. The figure is a 14% decrease on 2016/2017.

The most pleasing item to report this year relates to the reduction in drowning of children under the age of five. A 38% reduction when compared to last year, and 36% against the 10 year average is very positive. Parents must continually be reminded to Keep Watch, and ensure that their pool fence and gate are in good working order.

Drowning in inland waterways has reduced for the third year running. A reduction of 16% when compared to the ten year average builds upon the progress in this area.

"This is the lowest number of drowning deaths ever recorded in Australia. The figures show that drowning prevention initiatives continue to reduce the impacts of drowning across most waterways and age groups. However, we cannot be complacent about water safety. Toddler drowning deaths have been dramatically reduced over time, yet drowning continues to be one of the leading causes of accidental death of children aged under 5 years. Swimming and water safety education remains a key priority for all school aged children" Pene Snashall, President, Royal Life Saving.

“Especially want to encourage regional Australians to be alert around all waterways including rivers, creeks, dams and beaches. Keep an eye on your children, family and friends, and if you see someone being unsafe or struggling – raise the alarm.” **Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie, Minister for Regional Services, Sport, Local Government and Decentralisation**

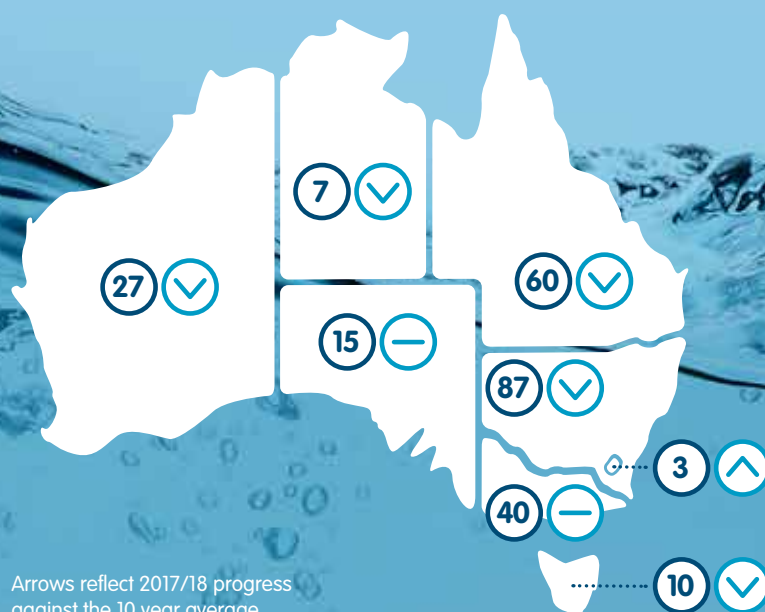
Key findings from the Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report 2018 include:

- 72% of drowning deaths were men, with alcohol and risk taking a common factor
- Rivers, creeks and streams were the location with the largest number of drowning deaths, accounting for 25% of all drowning deaths
- 18 children aged 0-4 years drowned in Australia, which represents a 36% reduction on the 10 year average
- 67% of drowning deaths of children aged 0-4 years were in swimming pools.
- 25% of all drowning deaths occurred when swimming and recreating
- Two in five drowning deaths occurred in summer



Watch the Royal Life Saving Drowning Report 2018 Video:
youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust

Below: Pene Snashall, President, Royal Life Saving and Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie at the 2018 Report Launch - Parliament House Canberra.



Arrows reflect 2017/18 progress against the 10 year average.



PEOPLE DROWNED IN AUSTRALIAN WATERWAYS

COSTS OF DROWNING

Royal Life Saving estimates that the combined effects of fatal and non-fatal drowning in 2017/18 cost Australia \$1.47 billion. These costs combine the health system, emergency services, coronial and productivity effects of an average of the 249 fatal and 551 non-fatal incidents outlined in this report.

On average, each fatal drowning cost Australian society \$4.56 million, while each non-fatal drowning costs \$610,000. Most of the costs of non-fatal drowning come from the 7.4% of victims who go on to experience long term complications as a result of their experience.

The largest share of costs from drowning, for both fatal and non-fatal incidents, come from the value of years of life lost to death and disability. We calculate that, in 2017/18, fatal drowning led to the loss of 10,335 years of life over a 15 year period, while last year's non-fatal drowning will ultimately lead to complications and disability equivalent to 1,326 years of life lost.

These figures help to put the costs of potential drowning prevention strategies into perspective and help to quantify the gains from reductions in Australia's drowning toll.

Obviously, dollars and cents aren't the only way, or even the most useful way to talk about how much drowning costs us as a society. But sometimes policy decisions do come down to dollar and cents, and at those times it's important to be able to talk about what a costly tragedy every drowning, fatal or non-fatal, really is.

\$1.47
BILLION

DROWNING COST TO AUSTRALIA LAST YEAR

\$1.13
BILLION

FOR FATAL INCIDENTS

\$339
MILLION

AVERAGE NON-FATAL DROWNING COST TO AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY

10,335

YEARS OF LIFE LOST DUE TO FATAL DROWNING

“ON AVERAGE, EACH FATAL DROWNING COST AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY \$4.56 MILLION...”

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

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.

Key research reports this year identified:

SEVEN PERCENT OF RIVER USERS LEGALLY DRUNK

Funded from the Australian Government and conducted by Royal Life Saving and James Cook University, this world-first research "Breathalysing and surveying river users to understand river usage & attitudes towards drowning risk" surveyed locals and tourists at four river locations - Alligator Creek in Townsville, the Murrumbidgee River in Wagga Wagga, the Murray River at Albury, and the Hawkesbury River in Western Sydney.

Researchers used a breathalyser to gauge if people were swimming under the influence of alcohol. A total of 684 people were surveyed and breathalysed across 16 days at the four research sites.

One-in-six people who swim in rivers is under the influence of alcohol, and nearly half of those swimmers are above the legal alcohol limit for driving.

16 percent of swimmers recorded a positive blood alcohol concentration (BAC) and seven percent were over the legal driving limit, recording a BAC 0.05 or higher.

Despite males being overrepresented in river drownings, the research identified similar numbers of males and females drinking alcohol at the rivers.

FURTHER WORK IS REQUIRED TO REDUCE ALCOHOL-RELATED DROWNING

Through a research collaboration between Griffith University and Royal Life Saving, 73 studies were looked at as part of the paper "Alcohol use, aquatic injury, and unintentional drowning: A systematic literature review" published in Drug and Alcohol Review - 57 on prevalence and/or risk factors, 14 on understanding alcohol use, and two on prevention strategies.

It was identified that there was an urgent need for high quality research aimed at reducing alcohol-related drowning.

On average, 49 per cent and 35 per cent of fatal and non-fatal drownings, respectively, involved alcohol, with large variations among studies observed.

The review of global research, showed that Males, boating, not wearing lifejackets, and swimming alone (at night, and at locations without lifeguards) were risk factors for alcohol-related drowning.

PARTICIPANT'S PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND HEALTH STATUS AFTER UNDERTAKING THE GREY MEDALLION PROGRAM

A NSW Evaluation of the Grey Medallion: A Water Safety and Lifesaving Skills Initiative for Older Australians report evaluated changes in participant's knowledge of water safety, emergency care actions and drowning prevention strategies following participation in the Grey Medallion program across South East NSW.

SWIMMING SKILLS OF 63,200 AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN

The study Benchmarking Australian Children's' Swimming and Water Safety Skills analyses the swimming and water safety skills of a sample of children attending private swimming lessons in four States. The report focuses on primary school aged children (5 -12 years) and is the first of three research reports examining the skills of 63,200 Australian children aged 0 – 15 years attending private swimming lessons.

Overall, 4 year old children made up the highest age group of children attending private swimming lessons, with 65% being 7 years and younger. Of primary school aged children in private lessons, 53% are aged between 5 and 7 years. Analysis shows that at this age, many of the children in programs are not yet able to swim 10m of freestyle or backstroke.

Data shows that 75% of children exit swimming lessons by the age of 8 years; this is often prior to them achieving more comprehensive swimming and water safety benchmarks as outlined by The National Swimming and Water Safety Framework.

The study found that on average children are aged between 9 and 10 years old by the time they could achieve the National Benchmark minimum skills of 50m freestyle, 25m survival backstroke, and treading water for 2 minutes.





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.



317,816

WEBSITE VISITS
8% INCREASE FROM 16/17



921,140

WEBSITE PAGE VIEWS

53% VIEWED ON **DESKTOP**

38% VIEWED ON **MOBILE**

9% VIEWED ON **TABLET**

NATIONAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

1. Respect the River
2. Keep Watch – Water Its Only Safe While you are Watching
3. Don't Let your Mates Drink and Drown
4. Summer Drowning Toll
5. Easter Water Safety Campaign





KEEP WATCH: WATER. IT'S ONLY SAFE WHILE YOU'RE WATCHING

Between 1 July 2002 and 30 June 2017, 461 children aged 0-4 years drowned in Australia. Of these, 231 (50%) occurred in home swimming pools (including backyard swimming pools, portable pools and outdoor spas).

In 100% of child drowning cases in home swimming pools, active adult supervision had either lapsed or was entirely absent. Further, a NSW study of child drowning deaths in home swimming pools over the last 15 years showed that in 62% of cases, the child gained access to the pool area through a faulty fence or gate, or a gate which had been deliberately propped open, allowing the child to enter the pool area unaccompanied.

For every toddler drowning death approximately ten children are admitted to hospital as a result of non-fatal drowning.

Keep Watch has actively been working for over 20 years to prevent toddler drowning deaths and continues to be Australia's most comprehensive drowning prevention and water safety program for children under 5.

In November 2017, Royal Life Saving issued a warning to parents to be aware that "WATER: IT'S ONLY SAFE WHILE YOU'RE WATCHING" as a measure to ensure that parents were not complacent about backyard pool safety. The key focus of the campaign message was around Complacency and to drive the Keep Watch messages of (1) Supervision and (2) Restricting Access.

Engaging 303 Lowe to manage the creative process from July 2017, and co-funded by Royal Life Saving National, NSW and WA offices, creative concepts were developed and research / focus groups engaged to ensure the most effective and relevant message were delivered to parents and carers.

As part of the campaign, Royal Life Saving, with the support of the Federal 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.

371

PRINT AND
BROADCAST ITEMS

9,307,582

PRINT AND
BROADCAST CUMULATIVE
AUDIENCE

1,415,989

SOCIAL MEDIA
TOTAL INFLUENCE
SHARED REACH



Watch the Keep Watch - Water. Its only safe while you are watching video: [youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust](https://www.youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust)



DON'T LET YOUR MATES DRINK AND DROWN

Royal Life Saving with support of the Federal Government launched the Don't Let Your Mates Drink and Drown Campaign in November 2017 with media partner Triple M. The national campaign included a multi-channel marketing strategy including a targeted Facebook content plan, digital display advertising, influencer engagement, radio strategy, and PR strategy.

Research by Royal Life Saving revealed that 1,995 men lost their lives to drowning in the past decade. Two in five men had drugs and/or alcohol in their system. Almost a quarter (24%) of male drowning deaths involved alcohol alone. Of the men who had been drinking and subsequently drowned, 67% would have failed a random breath test with a recorded a blood alcohol content above 0.05.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

2.75
MILLION

PEOPLE REACHED
THROUGH FACEBOOK

1.7
MILLION

VIDEO VIEWS
THROUGH FACEBOOK

2
MILLION

IMPRESSIONS DELIVERED
THROUGH TRIPLE M
DISPLAY ADVERTISING

8,651

COMMUNITY SERVICE RADIO
ANNOUNCEMENTS WITH TRIPLE M

“

Don't Let Your Mates Drink and Drown" is a campaign that calls on men to look out for their mates, avoid alcohol around water, and to keep them out of trouble by speaking up if they are drunk or drug affected and decide to go swimming or take the boat for a spin.”

Justin Scarr, CEO, Royal Life Saving



Watch the Don't Let Your Mates Drink and Drown videos:
youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust

MATT'S STORY

Matt Naysmith knows the devastating effect that alcohol can have when consumed around water. At the age of 21, Matt was a fully qualified heavy duty mechanic working a FIFO job in the Pilbara. Having booked an around-the-world ticket, Matt and a group of friends spent the day at Karijini National Park to celebrate.

Matt was drunk when he ignored warning signs and climbed to the top of a waterfall. Tragically, he slipped and was sent hurtling over the edge and into the gorge, landing heavily on rocks, breaking his neck and severing his spinal cord. He was told he would never walk again. Matt's life changed in that fateful moment.

“My injury took me from ‘living’ a great life to becoming a spectator in an instant; it's like sitting on the sidelines - you know what you want to do and you know how to do it but you just can't,” **said Matt.**



NEW INDIGENOUS RESOURCES: LOOK OUT YOU MOB

Royal Life Saving research shows that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples are four times more likely to die from drowning than non-Indigenous Australian's.

5 KEY FACTS ABOUT INDIGENOUS DROWNING DEATHS

26%

ARE CHILDREN UNDER
THE AGE OF 10

47%

ALMOST HALF
OCCUR IN RIVERS

11%

OF VICTIMS WERE USING
BOATS OR WATERCRAFT

29%

OF VICTIMS RECORDED A
BLOOD ALCOHOL LEVEL
OF 0.05% OR HIGHER

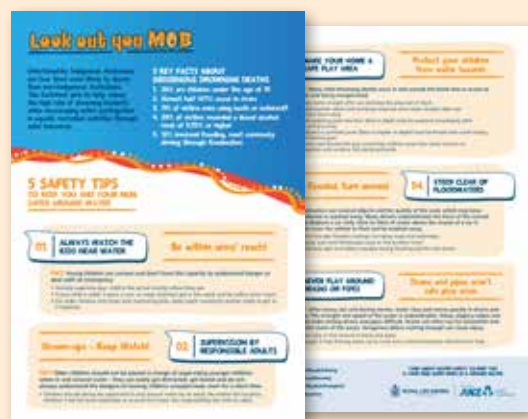
12%

INVOLVED FLOODING,
MOST COMMONLY DRIVING
THROUGH FLOODWATERS

To support Indigenous communities and organisations to promote water safety education and drowning prevention strategies, Royal Life Saving with the support of the ANZ Foundation developed a range of useful resources including a range of fact sheets, A3 and A4 posters and web banners.



To download the resources visit:
royallifesaving.com.au



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Royal Life Saving Website continues to be a key resource for the Australian community to access water safety and drowning prevention information. This year there was an 8.3% increase on users visiting the website.

Almost eight in ten Australians use social media, with 59% of people accessing social media every day or most days.

The primary objective through Royal Life Saving's social media channels is to 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
- National Aquatic Industry Safety Awards

TOP 2 FACEBOOK POSTS WITH ORGANIC REACH



Don't Let Your Mates Drink and Drown
192k+ people reached



Keep Watch
132k+ people reached



9,883,100

FACEBOOK IMPRESSIONS

398

TOTAL NUMBER OF POSTS

4,249,107

TOTAL REACH

2,187,994

TOTAL VIDEO VIEWS
(Total count < 3 sec)

91,917

ENGAGED USERS

12,0001

FOLLOWERS



342,830

TWITTER IMPRESSIONS

349

TOTAL NUMBER OF POSTS

6,522

TOTAL ENGAGEMENTS



92,962

YOUTUBE VIEWS

180,266

TOTAL WATCH TIME (MINUTES)

“WITH THE EVER-CHANGING MEDIA SPACE – ROYAL LIFE SAVING HAVE WORKED TO KEEP UP WITH MARKET TRENDS, AND DEVELOP NEW WAYS OF REACHING TARGET AUDIENCES.”



SWIMMING, LIFESAVING, WATER SAFETY PATHWAY

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



988,193

TOTAL NUMBER EDUCATION
AND TRAINING AWARDS

483,077	SWIM AND SURVIVE
181,088	WATER SAFETY EDUCATION
131,082	RESUSCITATION
104,669	FIRST AID
33,416	POOL LIFEGUARD
25,420	BRONZE MEDALLION
17,898	BRONZE COMMUNITY
4,145	RESCUE STRAND
3,366	JUNIOR LIFEGUARD CLUB
1,646	POOL OPERATIONS
324	GREY MEDALLION
2,062	OTHER AWARDS





HELPING THOSE THAT MISS OUT ON LEARNING TO SWIM

The Royal Life Saving Swim and Survive Fund makes it possible for people who are more likely to miss out, or have missed out, to come along and learn vital swimming and lifesaving skills.

Royal Life Saving research has found the people in our communities who are most likely to miss out on formal swimming and water safety education are those who are Indigenous, from a multicultural background, from a low socio-economic community, live in a regional or remote area, are newly arrived in Australia, or are living with a disability.

Since inception 9,843 participants have been supported by the Fund. In the last financial year 1,168 participants have received instruction, totalling more than 14,381 individual lessons.

In 2018, Royal Life Saving partnered with the Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation and Speedo to further the reach of the Fund. Royal Life Saving captured images and video collating a mini video series from each of the programs. Participants and instructors shared their experiences and the far reaching impact of the lessons for all involved.

The Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation provided lessons to 155 children from Lurnea High School (Western Sydney) and 80 adults from the Westmead Community Hub (Western Sydney), teaching them how to swim and stay safe around the water. Coming from generations of families who are unable to swim, these high school students and adults were scared to go in the water, and would avoid any sort of aquatic activities.

Speedo provided 58 children from the Hunter Region, NSW with lessons who had missed out on learning swimming at an earlier age. With a further 40 young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boys in Carnarvon (Western Australia) the opportunity to participate in a Bronze Rescue Program.

“Thanks again for this program. It provides many families with the opportunity to gain important skills and to enjoy swimming.”



Holiday Learn to Swim Program in the Hunter Region



Teens from Western Sydney learn how to swim



Watch the students journey and the impact it has had on their lives at:
youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust

SWIM MY WAY LAUNCHED TO INCREASE SWIMMING AND AQUATIC ACTIVITY ACROSS AUSTRALIA

Swimming is one of the most popular forms of physical recreation in Australia however adult participation has dropped off in recent years, and many minority groups are missing out on learning to swim altogether.

In March 2018, Royal Life Saving and UNCLE TOBYS launched SWIM MY WAY a new initiative to get more Australian's swimming and active in the water. The program encourages people of all ages across Australia to get into the water for fun, fitness and good health through public awareness and education initiatives.

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

“We’re privileged to be part of a program that’s 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 swimming gold medallist and **UNCLE TOBYS** ambassador

Pictured: Bronte Campbell OAM Olympic gold medallist and UNCLE TOBYS Ambassador, Justin Scarr CEO Royal Life Saving and Cate Campbell OAM, Olympic gold medallist and UNCLE TOBYS Ambassador

SWIM MY WAY funded programs have facilitated **3,869** lessons this year.



Children from the remote community of Owairtilla, NT were taught swimming and lifesaving skills



Chinese Migrants learn to swim in Auburn



HOSTING THE AUSTRALIAN POOL LIFE SAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018

The Australian Pool Life Saving Championships 2018 were held at the SA Aquatic and Leisure Centre in Adelaide, hosting over 250 participants and volunteers. The New South Wales State Team retained their 2017 title as Overall Interstate winners followed closely by QLD and WA in third.

With support from Laerdal Australia, the QLD Team were the winners of the CPR Competition receiving a new Q CPR Resusci-Anne training manikin and SimPad.



Sir Percy Joske Trophy - Overall Interstate Champions
New South Wales

Interstate Men's Overall Champions
Western Australia

Interstate Women's Overall Champions
Queensland

Interstate Open Championship
Queensland

Male Lifesaver of the Year
TJ Chong Sue (WA)

Female Lifesaver of the Year
Mariah Jones (QLD)

Key Officials

Joanne Teagle (Chief Referee)

Mary Veal (CPR Coordinator)

Ondine Adey (SERC Coordinator)

Brione Rundle (Deputy SERC Coordinator)

Norm Stanley/Brendan Watts (Equipment Coordinators)

Glenda Bowen Pain/Kelly Maidment
(Organising Committee)



For full event results visit:
royallifesaving.com.au



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

EDUCATION

This year 483,077 children participated in the Swim and Survive Program. The program's unique learning pathway is designed to build strong foundation skills in swimming and water safety, keeping children actively engaged and most importantly having fun.

The Swim and Survive Website received 52,077 visitors and 277,868 pageviews.

Royal Life Saving has been working closely with Swim and Survive Partners providing a Marketing Toolkit to create vibrant, customised content to increase the presence of Swim and Survive at their facility, in the community, whilst promoting their Partnership with Royal Life Saving.

The use of Water Smart classroom resources has continued to increase, with the number of schools/teachers that have registered over the past financial year increasing to 5,439.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The VET Committee worked collaboratively to update the Lifeguarding Manual (5th Edition) and the First Aid Manual (April 2018) to reflect changes in industry practice and to further enhance the depth and breadth of information provided.

The Annual Planning Meeting held in March resulted in an updated VET Capacity Plan 2017-2020, Version 1.1.

The Committee developed and implemented a suite of pre-course e-learning modules and theory assessment tasks to support the delivery of the RLS Pool Lifeguard Award. The modules align to the Lifeguarding Manual and utilise a range of interactions and activities to facilitate learner engagement and retention of information. It is expected that the knowledge levels of Lifeguards when they attend face-to-face training will be enhanced by completing these modules and that trainers will be able to devote more time to practical skills development.

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, the First Aid Industry Reference Committee, and the 'On Water with Paddle Expert Working Group', which forms part of the Outdoor Recreation Technical Advisory Committee.

SPORT

Royal Life Saving and Surf Life Saving with support from the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) coordinate the Australian Life Saving Team. Royal Life Saving continues to play an integral role in the selection, coordination and management of these teams at the World Lifesaving Championships and other associated Lifesaving competitions which the team/s attend. Key roles include: Chair of Selectors – Dr Shayne Baker OAM; Collaborative Panel Member - Penny Hodgers; Administration Team Support – Caitlin Turner.

The Australian Lifesaving Team has had an intense campaign throughout 2017 and 2018 with a number of successes domestically and internationally as they gear up for LWC18 in Adelaide.

In August 2017 twenty Australian athletes contested the inaugural Commonwealth Festival of Lifesaving in Durban, South Africa. The event was conducted over two days with the assistance of 8 RLSSA Officials. The Australian team competed against six other nations including England, Scotland, Canada, Mauritius, Hong Kong, and South Africa. After facilitating a coaching workshop with developing nations the day prior to competition, the Australian contingent won both the National and Development teams' competitions.

“THIS YEAR 483,077 CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN THE SWIM AND SURVIVE PROGRAM.”



SAFER AQUATIC LOCATIONS

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



03

GSPO SAFETY GUIDELINE
SECTIONS ENDORSED



700+

GSPO SUBSCRIBERS





DELIVERING THE IMPORTANT RESPECT THE RIVER MESSAGE ACROSS AUSTRALIA

Royal Life Saving, with the support of the Federal Government, has been delivering the Respect the River message in every state and territory with a range of local educational programs, events and activities supported by a series of national community service announcements and wide ranging social media activities.



57
COMMUNITY
EVENTS



Watch Respect the River videos:
youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust

PRINT AND BROADCAST RESULTS

(4 OCT – 9 NOV 17)

427

MEDIA CLIPS

4,106,036

AUDIENCE

\$500,280

ADVERTISING SPACE RATE

SOCIAL MEDIA RESULTS

(25 SEPT- 4 NOV 2017)

1,259,805

TOTAL REACH

2,404,447

TOTAL IMPRESSIONS

10,630

TOTAL ENGAGEMENT

969,410

TOTAL VIDEO VIEWS

BETWEEN 1 JULY 2017 - 30 JUNE 2018



PEOPLE DROWNED
IN AUSTRALIAN
RIVERS, CREEKS
AND STREAMS



OF CASES THE
PERSON WHO DROWNED
WAS ALONE



PEOPLE AGED 25-34 YEARS
ACCOUNT FOR THE HIGHEST
NUMBER OF DROWNING
DEATHS IN RIVERS



ALCOHOL IS THE LEADING
RISK FACTOR IN RIVER
DROWNING DEATHS



DROWNING DEATHS
IN RIVERS HAVE
DECREASED BY 16%
IN 2017/2018

COMPARED TO THE
10 YEAR AVERAGE

TOP 10 NATIONAL RIVER DROWNING BLACKSPOTS

*Drowning deaths recorded from 1 July 2002 - 30 June 2017

1. Murray River (70 deaths)
2. Brisbane River (40 deaths), QLD
3. Yarra River (37 deaths), VIC
4. Hawkesbury River (22 deaths), NSW
5. Swan River (20 deaths), WA
5. Murrumbidgee River (20 deaths), NSW
7. Parramatta River (16 deaths), NSW
8. Georges River (14 deaths), NSW
8. Tweed River (14 deaths), NSW
10. Nepean River (13 deaths), NSW





A 10 YEAR ANALYSIS OF DROWNING IN AQUATIC FACILITIES: COMMUNAL, PUBLIC AND COMMERCIAL SWIMMING POOLS

Royal Life Saving research found 78 people fatally drowned at aquatic facilities in Australia between 1 July 2005 and 30 June 2015. 36 deaths occurred at 'Public and Commercial' swimming pools, a further 42 deaths occurred in 'Communal' swimming pools.

A further 362 people had a non-fatal drowning requiring hospitalisation.

Key drowning risk factors in both locations were a lack of active adult supervision, pre-existing medical conditions, and a lack of swimming ability and water safety knowledge.

“Not all Australians have access to a private swimming pool, so public swimming pools are a vital resource used by local communities. Safety should always be a top priority around water. Parents and carers must actively supervise their children around water, even if lifeguards are present. All pool users should follow safety signs and any directions issued by staff.”

Justin Scarr,
CEO, Royal Life Saving

Public and Commercial swimming pools refer to public pools and aquatic centres, as well as pools at schools and fitness centres

- Thirty six people fatally drowned in 'Public and Commercial' pools (including public pools and aquatic centres, as well as pools at schools and fitness centres), between 1 July 2005 and 30 June 2015.
- There were a further 257 non-fatal drowning incidents in 'Public and Commercial' pools which were primarily children aged 0-4 years (45%). Without the intervention of lifeguard actions, many of these non-fatal drownings may have resulted in a fatality.
- Children aged 5-9 years accounted for the highest proportion of drowning deaths (19%). Adult or carer supervision had lapsed in 86% of incidents.
- The high proportion of children drowning in public pools reinforces the need for a comprehensive child supervision program, such as 'Keep Watch' or 'Watch Around Water'. These programs promote active adult supervision, with particular requirements for younger children and non-swimmers.
- The vast majority of drowning deaths occurred among local residents, with 94% of people who drowned living within the region. Males accounted for 81% of all drowning deaths.
- Medical conditions were another key risk factor, with 61% of deaths known to involve a pre-existing medical condition. These commonly included cardiac conditions, such as ischaemic heart disease, as well as degenerative conditions and epilepsy. Royal Life Saving advises older Australians to be aware of any medical conditions they have, including how these conditions may impact their ability in the water. Regular check-ups with a doctor are encouraged, as well as taking any prescribed medication as directed.

Communal swimming pools includes pools at hotels, motels, apartment complexes and retirement villages

- Over the ten years, 42 people fatally drowned in 'Communal' pools (including hotel and motel pools, as well as pools at apartment complexes and retirement villages), with males accounting for 79% of these deaths. People aged 25-34 years (19%) accounted for the highest proportion of drowning, followed by people aged 65-74 years (14%).
- A further 105 cases of non-fatal drowning were recorded in 'Communal' swimming pools, with young children aged 0-4 years accounting for 45% of cases and children 5-9 years accounting for 25% of cases.
- More than half of drowning deaths occurred in Queensland (52%), with half of people who drowned found to be visitors to the location (50%). Although drowning deaths occurred all year round, incidents peaked during summer (45%).
- Alcohol consumption was a key risk factor, with 21% of deaths known to involve alcohol. At the levels recorded, alcohol is known to affect alertness, perception, vision, balance and reaction time. Royal Life Saving advises people to avoid alcohol consumption around water and observe any safety signs around hotel and motel swimming pools.

NATIONAL AQUATIC INDUSTRY SAFETY AWARDS

Six representatives from Australia's Aquatic Industry have been recognised in the National Aquatic Industry Safety Awards. Presented by Royal Life Saving, the group of individuals and organisations have been recognised for their significant contribution to aquatic safety within their community.

The awards are an initiative of the National Aquatic Industry Safety Committee to acknowledge the achievements of aquatic facilities and individuals towards improving health and safety outcomes.

Between 1 July 2005 and 30 June 2015, there were 293 drowning incidents in public and commercial pools across Australia. Thirty-six of these were fatal (12%). A series of videos have been produced of each winner, showcasing their work and contribution to their community through their aquatic health and safety initiatives.



Watch the winner's videos at:
youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust

The 2018 Award winners were:



EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC
EDUCATION
YMCA CASEY RACE



EXCELLENCE IN SUPERVISION
**IAN THORPE
AQUATIC CENTRE**



EXCELLENCE IN CUSTOMER
SERVICE
CHRISTINE MITCHELL



EXCELLENCE IN INCIDENT
MANAGEMENT
YMCA VICTORIA



EXCELLENCE IN STAFF
DEVELOPMENT
CITY OF GREATER GEELONG



EXCELLENCE IN FACILITY
MANAGEMENT
**COCKBURN AQUATIC &
RECREATION CENTRE**

NATIONAL AQUATIC INDUSTRY SAFETY COMMITTEE

The National Aquatic Industry Safety Committee, comprising of 20 representatives from across Australia continued its work with the review of the Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations and National Aquatic Industry agenda items.

The Committee met in September, December and April to review the Guidelines and discuss a range of issues pertaining to aquatic facilities.

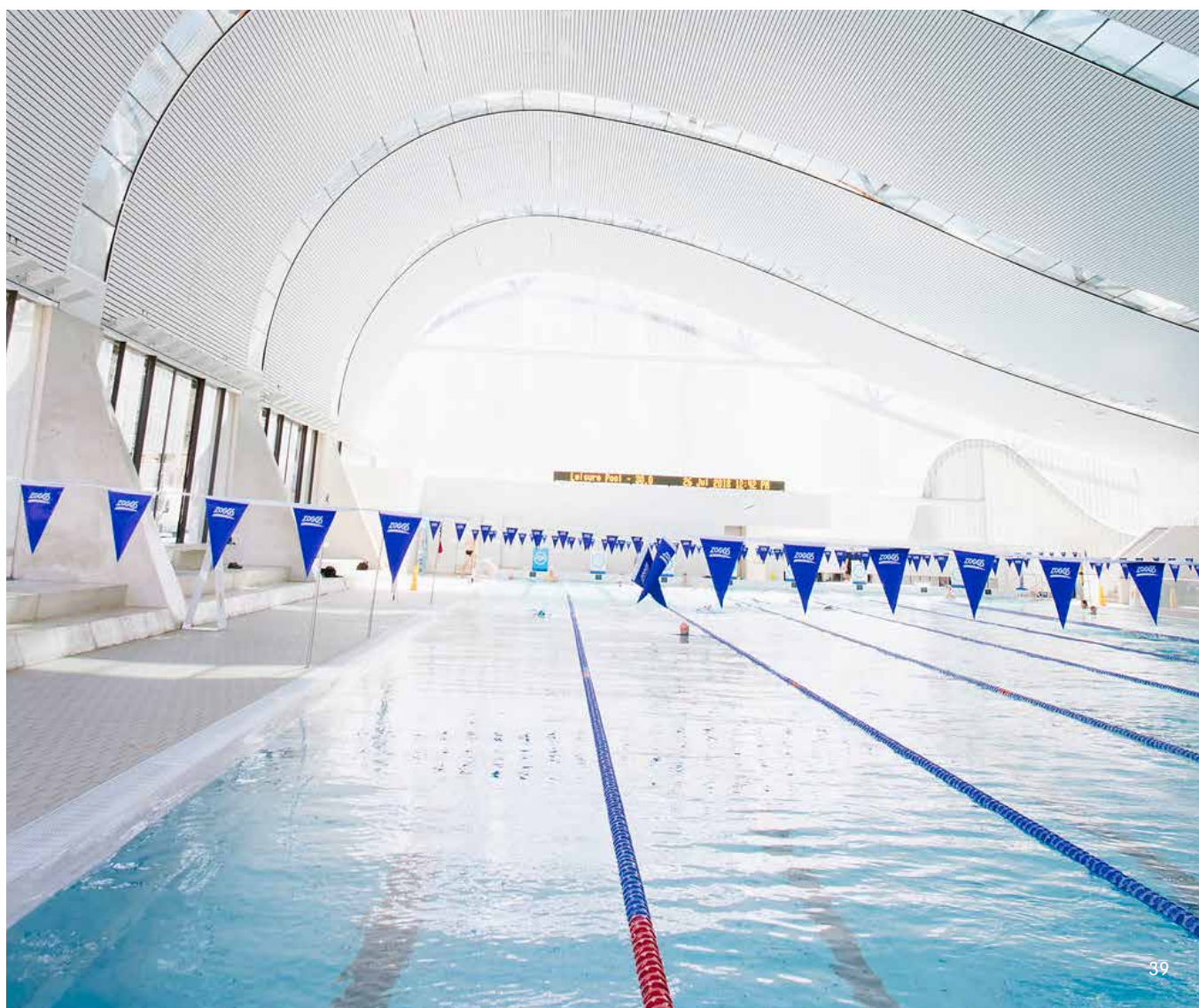
The Committee participated in a Pool Supervision Workshop looking at the design and development of safety recommendations for a 'mock' aquatic facility. The scenarios used the draft guidelines for Pool Supervision to test their suitability and practicality.

Further, the Committee noted the progress of the working group in reviewing existing data sets across Australia and establish a Nationally Consistent Data Set for the Reporting of Aquatic Facility Information with a vision to produce a National Aquatic Industry Report within 3 years.

UNDERWATER SAFETY SYMPOSIUM

Royal Life Saving facilitated a workshop in December 2017 with representatives from the Divers Alert Network, Australian Underwater Federation, Australian Freediving Association, Surfing Australia, Swimming Australia, PADI, APNEA Australia, The National Aquatic Industry Safety Committee and a range of Medical Professionals.

The One Day workshop heard from experts into medical, risk and sporting environments and explored a range of challenges facing the aquatic industry with Underwater Sports. The Symposium workshopped a range of risk management strategies to support the industry and underwater sporting associations which will form the basis of new guidelines in the Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations.





DROWNING PREVENTION LEADERSHIP ABROAD

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



Credit: Sarah Keayes/Fairfax Media



360,000
PEOPLE DIE FROM
DROWNING EVERY YEAR



42
DROWNING DEATHS
EVERY HOUR, EVERY DAY

DROWNING AS A GLOBAL ISSUE

Drowning is a serious and neglected public health issue which the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates claims the lives of 360,000 people every year around the world. More than 90% of these drowning deaths occur in low and middle income countries, many of which are in our region.

In December 2017, Royal Life Saving Society – Australia, in partnership with WHO Western Pacific Region gathered 14 delegates from 7 countries for a workshop aimed at scaling up drowning prevention efforts in priority countries of the Western Pacific region.

Countries in attendance:
Cambodia, China, Fiji, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Vietnam and Thailand.

Above image: Delegates attending the 2017 Drowning Prevention Workshop.



WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

- 01** To increase participants technical knowledge on the magnitude of drowning and WHO's recommendations for public health interventions for drowning prevention
- 02** To give participants practical exposure to drowning prevention interventions in practice and how this could apply to the situation in their home countries
- 03** To identify national opportunities for scaling up action for drowning prevention
- 04** To increase knowledge of communications/media relations officers on media strategies to raise the profile of drowning and its preventability in their home countries.

ILS ASIA PACIFIC SPORT WORKSHOPS

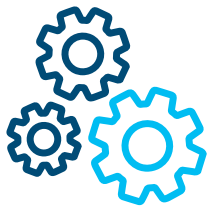
In mid-November 2017, lifesavers from 10 Asia-Pacific countries attended the ILS Asia-Pacific Region's Pool Lifesaving Coaching Workshop that was hosted by the Life Saving Society Malaysia (LSSM) in Penang, Malaysia.

The purpose of the Workshop was to provide an opportunity for the ILS Asia-Pacific Region to further develop capacity and capability in the sport of pool lifesaving within its member organisations.

The Workshop was one component of the Asia-Pacific Regional Plan 2016 to 2020 that identified the need for "a coordinated approach to working together to develop lifesaving sport athletes, officials and event managers, increasing the number and quality of sport development opportunities by linking to existing events, running workshops and engaging in the Lifesaving World Championships in our region."

The Workshop was facilitated by experienced pool lifesaving competitors and coaches in Steven Kent and Samantha Lee from Surf Life Saving New Zealand (SLSNZ) and Leigh Ryan from the Royal Life Saving Society Australia (RLSSA).

A second workshop was held in Bangkok in December 2017 and facilitated by Mary Veal of RLSSA.



ORGANISATIONAL COHESION AND GROWTH

Royal Life Saving is continually building upon our 124 year history, our national network and our collective commitment to the Australian community.

BRANDING REFRESH

Royal Life Saving was established in 1894 and although our landmark/ logo has seen slight changes, our organisation's essence is still the same. Royal Life Saving works to lead efforts to reduce drowning and increase swimming, water safety and lifesaving skills.

The development of new branding guidelines in 2018 provides the necessary tools to implement our brand across the organisation and our programs. It makes us more effective externally - with a single identity we have a greater impact. It also makes us more efficient internally - as we share materials, ideas and resources.

PREVIOUS LOGO

EVERYONE CAN BE A LIFESAVER



Royal Life Saving

ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY - AUSTRALIA

NEW LOGO



ROYAL LIFE SAVING
AUSTRALIA





STATE AND TERRITORY MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Working together to deliver on the Royal Life Saving
Strategic Framework 2016-2020.

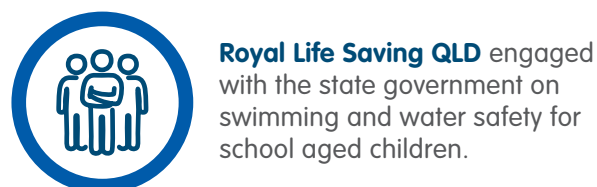


FACILITATE

Royal Life Saving NT



86	EVENTS HOSTED
10,469	TRAINING CERTIFICATES ISSUED
58.5%	TRAINING IN REGIONAL AND REMOTE AREAS



Royal Life Saving WA established a Multicultural Steering Committee to gather the collective knowledge of cultural groups including the Chung Wah Association, the Indian Society, settlement agencies including ISHAR and Communicare, as well as state and local government, to better understand the barriers, cultural understandings and adaptations needed to increase water safety skills and participation.

Royal Life Saving NSW with the support of Coordinare – Primary Health Network of South East NSW delivered the Grey Medallion program to 140 older Australian's (aged 60+). The program was funded as part of continued efforts to "promote healthy and active ageing to residents to enable them to stay well and remain living in their communities as they age".

ADVOCATE



Royal Life Saving WA partnered with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to conduct a study into the drowning risks associated with mermaid tails and monofins. The study highlighted the extent to which mermaid tails and fins reduce a child's ability to swim by making it significantly more difficult for them to float, restricting their movement and increasing tiredness – factors that could easily lead to a drowning tragedy.



Royal Life Saving TAS joined forces with Local Government Association of Tasmania to promote portable pool safety. This campaign was aimed at the need to Keep Watch around portable pools for kids aged under 4 years.



Life Saving Victoria welcomed the Victorian Government's investment in swimming and water safety education through the Swimming in Schools initiative, which saw an additional \$9.8 million (over two years) announced in the 2018/19 State Budget. An additional \$4 million over two years was also provided to LSV to increase the capacity and capability of the education sector and aquatic industry to deliver swimming and water safety education as per the Victorian Curriculum.

ACTIVATE



988,193
**EDUCATION AND
TRAINING AWARDS ISSUED
ACROSS AUSTRALIA**

Royal Life Saving ACT

16,000

**SWIM AND SURVIVE
PARTICIPANTS**

600

**DAY AT THE LAKE
PARTICIPANTS**

140

**SWIM 4 LIFE ENROLMENTS
IN JANUARY 2018**

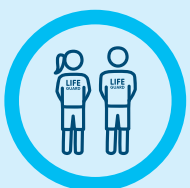
A record number since the program commenced 8 years ago.



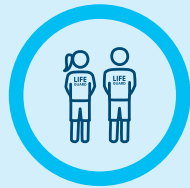
Royal Life Saving TAS trained 160 Scouts Leaders in an Accredited First Aid Course, ensuring our scouts are safe whilst undertaking outdoor adventures.



Royal Life Saving SA delivered the Swim and Survive program to children with ASD who are unable to attend mainstream swim and survive program.



Royal Life Saving QLD launched a new program "we have your back" providing support to Lifeguards who have completed a Royal Life Saving Course, should a major incident occur.



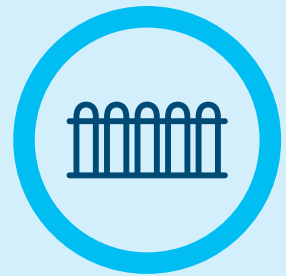
33,416
**POOL LIFEGUARDS
TRAINED
ACROSS AUSTRALIA**

Royal Life Saving NSW delivered it's 'Youth Led Community Lifesaver Project' which provided 75 year 10 students with skills based training, education, mentoring and leadership opportunities.

As part of the initiative, students took part in a first aid and mentoring program, using their experience to conduct a CPR awareness session for year 5/6 students in neighbouring primary schools.



5,655 primary students from 43 schools educated about the dangers associated with various inland waterways and equipped with basic survival and rescue skills.



3,500 preschoolers from 120 childcare centres educated about the dangers associated with backyard swimming pools and equipped with skills to help them stay safe.



Royal Life Saving NT taught Swim & Survive to 13,738 children from 81 schools, including 2,027 children from 21 remote aboriginal communities.

INNOVATE AND CELEBRATE



Life Saving Victoria developing virtual reality (VR) resources, designed to immerse students in a range of aquatic environments, without leaving the classroom.

Royal Life Saving QLD celebrated with the Neptune Royal Life Saving Club their 90th Anniversary. In 1928, an idea, enthusiasm, determination and eager volunteers combined to form the swimming and life saving club.



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.



39

LIFE MEMBERS



01

NEW LIFE MEMBER





OUR DEDICATED TEAM OF POOL LIFE SAVING OFFICIALS

Officials are vital to the sport of pool life saving. Royal Life Saving are fortunate to have a team of committed officials who volunteer their time to assist with the operation of pool life saving events.

200 athletes from around the country came together to compete at the Australian Pool Life Saving Championships 2018, with over 50 officials providing their expertise and knowledge to help make the event happen. Each official has an important role, whether it's timekeeping, judging, or providing administration assistance, everyone pitches in to help the event run efficient and effectively.

“An event like this is not possible without the hard, behind-the-scenes work of the many volunteers and staff who organise, officiate and coordinate (not to mention count, pack and transport equipment across the country). Thank you especially to Rob Reid, National Sports Advisor, and the dedicated team of officials who offer their time, expertise and knowledge to ensure the event is professional and runs smoothly.”

Pene Snashall, National President, Royal Life Saving



**OFFICIALS AT
THE AUSTRALIAN
POOL LIFE SAVING
CHAMPIONSHIPS**



**HOURS
VOLUNTEERED**



**SPORTSMANSHIP
TEAMWORK &
PROFESSIONALISM**



DR SHAYNE BAKER OAM AWARDED LIFE MEMBER OF ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY - AUSTRALIA

Dr Shayne Baker OAM has been a proud advocate of Royal Life Saving for over 30 years and active leader of drowning prevention both in Australia and Internationally. In recognition of outstanding service Dr Shayne Baker OAM was awarded Life Member of Royal Life Saving Society - Australia.

His areas of expertise range from lifesaving practices in the pool and on the beach to lifesaving governance and policy development, with a strong interest and expertise in vocational education and training.

Shayne's involvement with Royal Life Saving began in NSW as a school boy, and then continued in 1985 in Qld with RLSSQ while at teachers college. Shayne worked as a volunteer instructor/examiner in the Darling Downs region, assessing hundreds of students as they undertook RLSS courses including Swim and Survive, lifesaving, and resuscitation qualifications.

Shayne's activities in the mid 1990's included starting an after school swimming and lifesaving program, conducting Swim & Survive, bronze medallion programs, CPR for apprentices and scouts.

Shayne's involvement with Royal Life Saving has included senior leadership positions such as National Councillor, Board Member of Queensland Branch, Member of the National Sports Committee, National President, Member of the review panel of Swimming & Lifesaving Manual, competition referee and official at both state and national level lifesaving championships.

In 1997 Shayne successfully achieved the Diploma of RLSS and holds a suite of current RLSS certificates such as Bronze medallion, Lifeguard, CPR, Oxygen Resus and Senior First Aid qualifications.

Shayne has reached the position of Commonwealth Vice President (2004) and was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in 2012 for services to the community, particularly through Royal Life Saving, and to education.



THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA HONOURS FOR LIFESAVING EFFORTS

On the 26th January 2018, Mrs. Rozlynn Grey was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her significant contributions to lifesaving.

Roz's early passion for swimming and lifesaving lead to involvement in water safety instruction and participation in pool life saving. Initially gaining her Bronze Medallion over 55 years ago, Roz subsequently gained her teaching qualifications, becoming a Royal Life Saving Examiner.

In 1970 Roz obtained her qualification as a pool life saving official and has volunteered as a State, National, and International Pool Lifesaving Championships official to date, and has acted as a mentor for competitors and officials alike.

As part of the Queen's Birthday Honours 2018, past Royal Life Saving Society - Australia CEO Rob Bradley was awarded a Member in the Order of Australia (AM).

Rob was CEO at Royal Life Saving Society - Australia for 16 years. During this time he was a key figure in the establishing of the Australian Water Safety Council, being its inaugural chair, and in the development of the first Australian Water Safety Plan in 1998. A strong supporter of child drowning prevention efforts via the Keep Watch.

The Australian Awards Committee also noted his service to Confederation of Australian Sport, Australian Rugby Union and Sport Australia Hall of Fame.

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)

National Board of Directors

Penelope Snashall B.Bus President

President, Royal Life Saving Society – Australia, Tasmania.
Pene was appointed as a Director November 2013. Pene was elected National President in October 2015.

Randall Cook B.Ed; Grad Dip ED Management Deputy President

President, Royal Life Saving Society, Northern Territory.
Randall was appointed as a Director in April 2009.

The Hon Terence John Higgins AO QC

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.

John Davis

Board Member, Royal Life Saving Society – Australia, South Australia. John was appointed to the Board in February 2016, and resigned from the Board in October 2017.

James Wither

President Royal Life Saving Society Australia – South Australia. James was appointed to the Board in October 2017.

Dianne Montalto ESM

President, Royal Life Saving Society Australia, Victoria. Dianne was appointed as a Director in April 2009.

Cameron Eglington M Ed; B.P.E, Dip. Teach, PE.

Cameron joined the Board in June 2013 representing Royal Life Saving Society Western Australia.

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 20 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
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	Paul Barry until October 2017
QLD	James McClelland from October 2017

Executive Leadership Team

ACT	Cherry Bailey
NSW	David Macallister until August 2017
NSW	Michael Ilinsky from August 2017
NT	Floss Roberts
QLD	Michael Darben until October 2017
QLD	Paul Barry from October 2017
SA	Tony Taylor
TAS	Paula Robertson until August 2017
TAS	Karina Siggins from August 2017
VIC	Nigel Taylor
WA	Peter Leaversuch

National Sport Committee

ACT	Cherry Bailey
NSW	Felysia Konakoff
NT	Jill Dowd
QLD	Paul Barry
SA	Glenda Bowen Pain AM / Kelly Maidment
TAS	Amanda Mayes
VIC	Anni Gardiner
WA	Tom Ballantyne
NAT	Robert Reid

Honours Committee

VIC	Dianne Montalto ESM (Chair)
NSW	Roz Grey
NT	Daphne Read AO
QLD	James McClelland
SA	John Davis

VET Committee

ACT	Jackie Rousseau
NSW	Penny Hodgers
NT	Rebecca Gawne
QLD	Catherine O'Rourke
SA	Rachel Mayne
TAS	Karina Siggins
VIC	Erin Petts
WA	Ian Brown
NAT	Shaun Jackson and Dr Shayne Baker OAM

Water Safety Committee

ACT	Nicole Lloyd
NSW	Matt Griffiths / Kaye Wood
NT	Wayne Van Sambeek / Steven Gazzola
QLD	Tamara Price / Melissa Robbins
SA	Tanya Massey
TAS	Karina Siggins
VIC	Jennifer Howgate / Sami Yeomans
WA	Trent Hotchkin
NAT	Penny Larsen and Kristal Grainger/Thea Harrild

National Office

Chief Executive Officer

Justin Scarr

Operations

National Manager Operations

Craig Roberts

National Manager Research and Policy

Amy Peden

Senior Project Officer – Research and Policy

Alison Mahony

Senior Project Officer - Research and Policy

Stacey Pidgeon

Senior Health Economist

Paul Barnsley PhD

Senior Research Fellow

Dr Richard Franklin PhD

National Manager Events and Marketing

Monique Sharp

National Communications Executive

Lucy Rae

Senior Project Officer - Grants, Tenders and Partnerships

Shannon Taylor

National Manager Education and Training

Penny Larsen

Senior Project Officer - Education

Kristal Grainger (Until August 2017)

Senior Project Officer – Aquatic Industry and Education

Thea Harrild (From April 2017)

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

Royal Life Saving Society - Australia

Life Governors

2015 John McClelland (QLD)
2015 Alan B. Swinton OAM QPM (TAS)

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 (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 Anni 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
2017 Dr Shayne Baker OAM

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

International Life Saving Organisations

International Life Saving Federation (ILS)

President
Graham Ford (Australia)

Secretary General
Dr. Harald Vervaecke, PhD (Belgium)

Committee Membership

Justin Scarr
Drowning Prevention Commissioner, ILS Asia-Pacific
Secretary General, World Conference on Drowning
Prevention 2017 Convenor

Professor John Pearn AO RFD
Medical Committee

Amy Peden
Drowning Prevention Commission

Dr Shayne Baker OAM
Rescue Commission

Anni 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

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 2018

	2018	2017
Revenue	4,590,937	4,104,716
Fundraising	95,340	83,217
Other Income	57,381	42,189
Total Income	\$4,743,658	\$4,230,122
Expenses		
Management and Administration expenses	963,260	911,128
Fundraising	109,485	30,527
Media Meeting and Promotional Expenses	373,248	316,757
Programs and Program Support	3,157,724	2,827,979
Amortisation and Depreciation	66,172	58,706
Total Expenses	\$4,669,889	\$4,145,096
Total Comprehensive income attributable to the Members of RLSSA	\$73,769	\$85,025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as at 30 June 2018

	2018	2017
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	3,010,933	2,651,780
Receivables	154,654	138,427
Inventories	136,171	124,294
Other	34,850	33,487
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$3,336,608	\$2,947,988
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	1,832,903	1,805,463
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	1,832,903	1,805,463
TOTAL ASSETS	\$5,169,511	\$4,753,451
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors and borrowings	2,397,515	2,122,576
Provisions	846,425	785,860
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$3,243,940	\$2,908,435
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors and borrowings	14,490	7,703
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$14,490	\$7,703
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$3,258,430	\$2,916,138
NET ASSETS	\$1,911,081	\$1,837,312
RETAINED FUNDS		
Retained surplus	1,375,305	1,301,536
Asset revaluation reserve	535,776	535,776
TOTAL RETAINED FUNDS	\$1,911,081	\$1,837,312

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

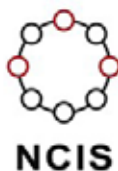


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OUR VISION

“A NATION FREE
FROM DROWNING”



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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