

ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016

OUR VISION

A NATION FREE FROM DROWNING

OUR PURPOSE

Royal Life Saving leads efforts to reduce drowning and increase swimming, water safety and lifesaving skills across the Australian community.

OUR VALUES

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

Royal Life Saving Society – Australia is a Public Company Limited by Guarantee.

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BACKGROUND

The Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) was founded in England in 1891 to combat a high drowning toll. The techniques advocated by the Society were soon adopted by many countries and today the RLSS represents the largest single organisation dedicated to the teaching of lifesaving and the prevention of drowning.

The first Australian Branch was formed in New South Wales in 1894 and the movement soon spread to all States. In December 1924, a dual system of lifesaving was established with Surf Life Saving Australia being responsible for ocean beaches and the Royal Life Saving Society - Australia responsible for all other waterways and stillwater environments.

In subsequent years the Society focused its attention on water safety education and rescue training for inland areas, and particularly for school children. In the immediate pre and post Second World War era the Bronze Medallion was included in many secondary school physical education programs.

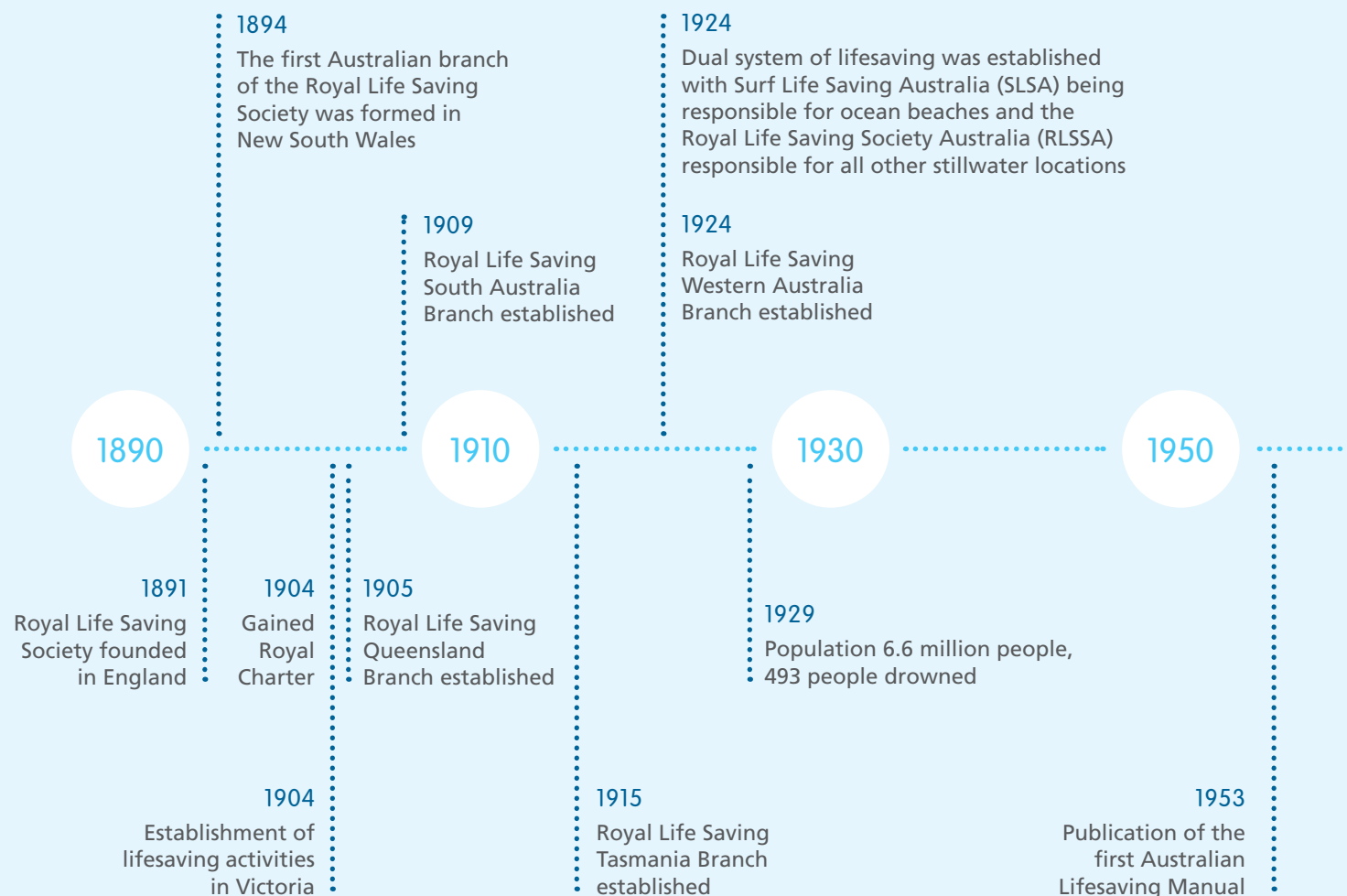
During that period, as had been the case for the previous 60 years, the Society's training Manual was imported directly from the United Kingdom.

By the early 1950s a group of dynamic physical educationalists, led by George Turnbull and Frank Henry of the New South Wales Branch, started developing techniques specific to Australian conditions. This controversial but exciting period of the Society's history resulted in 1953 in the first Australian Lifesaving Manual.

This period of change in Australia ultimately led to an important international change in 1959 with the establishment of the "Australian National Branch" and the RLSS Commonwealth Society.

In the late 1970s, the longest and most sustained period of change and growth commenced with the help of a group of Victorian educationalists. At that time no national water safety education program existed. This group recognised that if they could provide a well-balanced and easy-to-follow water safety program, it would be readily accepted by swimming and school teachers nationwide.

After trialling a program in a number of States and Territories, the Society launched the "Swim and Survive" program in 1982. At the same time the organisation launched the first edition of "Swimming and Lifesaving".



Royal Life Saving Commonwealth Celebrating 125 years.
 Recognising the death and suffering caused by drowning and determined to reduce it, champion swimmer William Henry, along with others who shared his passion, founded the Society in 1891.

2016 marks the 125th anniversary of The Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS). Since its establishment in 1891 in England, RLSS has expanded across the Commonwealth into 27 countries.

Every day, thousands of dedicated volunteers and a small cadre of professional staff work tirelessly to reduce drowning on behalf of the public at large. Over the last 125 years, millions of ordinary citizens have been trained as lifesavers.

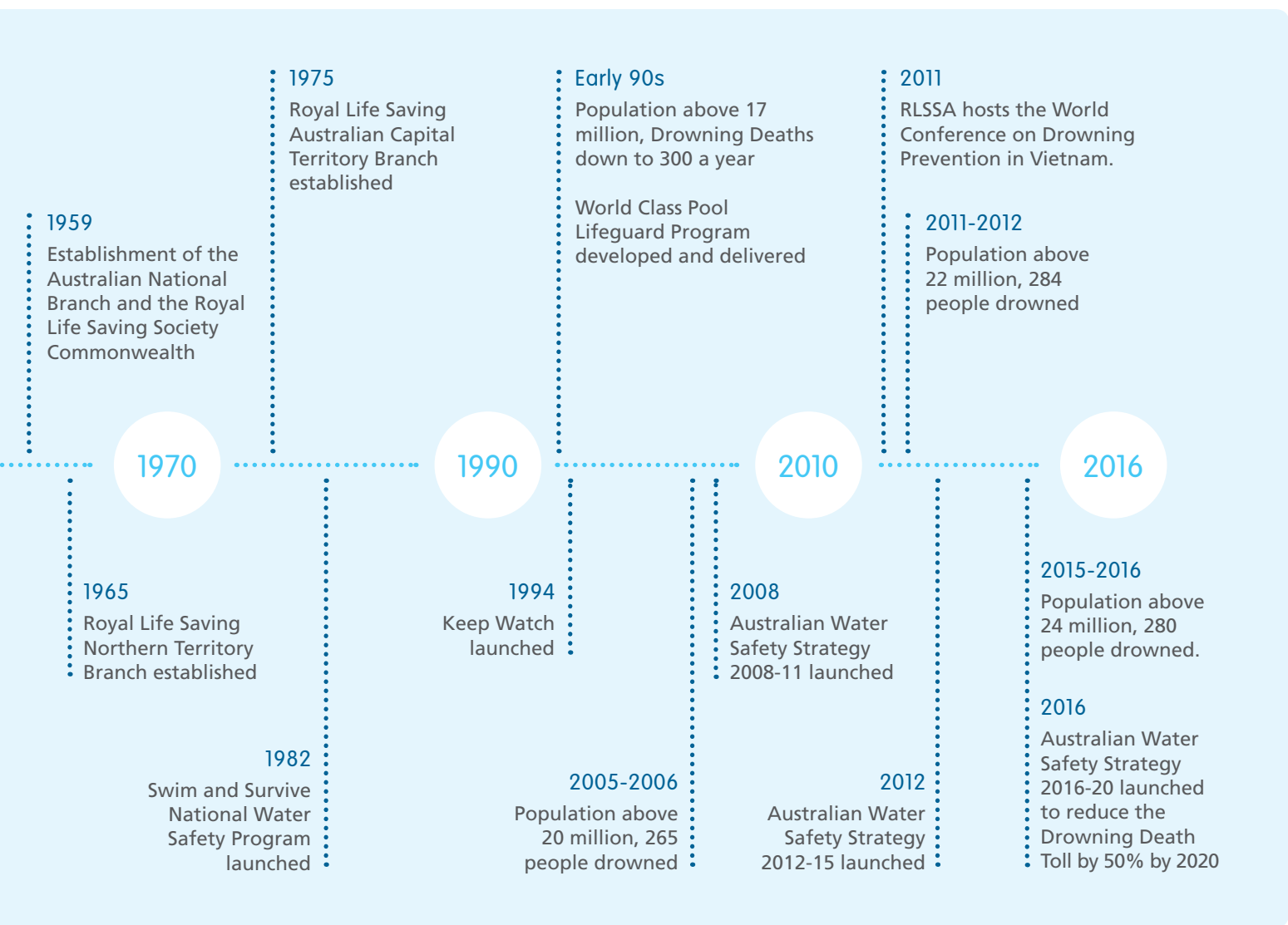
The Society delivers public awareness and education, lifesaving and lifeguard training, survival swimming, risk management, swim instruction and lifesaving sport. It also advocates for drowning prevention, based on research and sound standards. These initiatives not only save lives and prevent injury but build character and contribute to civil society, which benefits us all.

Celebrations opened in February with a two-day 125th Anniversary conference in London. The conference included presentations on the Australian Water Safety Strategy and the impacts of lifesaving in Australia; how RLSS UK managed to get drowning prevention on the political agenda; what happens to your body when it enters cold water; aligning drowning prevention with the UN's sustainable development goals; and the history of beach lifeguarding in Gibraltar; along with several other interesting presentations.

To commemorate the significant milestone of the Society, a one-time 125th Anniversary Certificate of Merit will be awarded to a limited group of 125 individuals from throughout the Commonwealth who have provided distinguished service to the RLSS.



125 YEARS OF COMMONWEALTH DROWNING PREVENTION



ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY – AUSTRALIA

Patron, Directors, Office Bearers and Committees

Patron

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

National Board of Directors

Pene Snashall B.Bus - President

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

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

President, Royal Life Saving Society Northern Territory. Recommended as a National Councillor in April 2008, and continued as a Director in April 2009. Randall retired from the Board in April 2013 and returned to the Board in July 2013 after a period overseas.

The Hon Terence John Higgins AO

President, Royal Life Saving Society Australian Capital Territory. Recommended as National Councillor in 2005, and continued as a Director in April 2009.

Mark McLennan

Director, Royal Life Saving Society New South Wales. Appointed as a Director in April 2015.

Les Mole JP

Board Member and President, Royal Life Saving Society Queensland. Appointed as a National Councillor in April 2006, and continued as a Director from April 2009. Les has a Bachelor of Adult and Vocational Education.

David Dewar

Former Board Member, Royal Life Saving Society South Australia. David has served on the National Board previously, and was reappointed as Director December 2013. David ceased being a Director on the National board in February 2016.

John Davis

Board Member, Royal Life Saving Society South Australia. John was appointed to the National Board in February 2016.

Dianne Montalto ESM

President, Royal Life Saving Society Victoria. Appointed as a National Councillor in June 2008, and has continued as a Director from April 2009. Dianne is qualified as an aquatics education teacher and lifesaving trainer.

Cameron Eglington M Ed

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

Justin Scarr MBA B.Ed

Justin has been a senior executive for the past 17 years, 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

NT Randall Cook

QLD Paul Barry

State and Territory Member Organisation Executive

ACT Cherry Bailey

ACT David Macallister

NT Floss Roberts

QLD Michael Darben

SA Tony Taylor

TAS Mel Bush (to March 16)
Paula Robertson (from April 16)

VIC Sandra Vander Pal

WA Peter Leaversuch

National Sport Committee

ACT Cherry Bailey

NSW Felysia Konakoff

NT Peter Tonkin

QLD Paul Barry

SA Glenda Bowen Pain AM

TAS Amanda Mayes

VIC Anni Gardiner

WA David Locke

NAT Robert Reid

Honours Committee

VIC Dianne Montalto ESM (Chair)

QLD Les Mole JP

QLD John McClelland

SA David Dewar

TAS Alison McIntyre

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)

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

Dianne Montalto ESM
ILS Board and ILS Asia-Pacific Board

Justin Scarr
Drowning Prevention Commissioner, ILS Asia-Pacific
Secretary General, World Conference on Drowning
Prevention 2015 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
Commonwealth Management Committee

Justin Scarr
Business Development Committee

Anni Gardiner and Monique Sharp
125th Anniversary Committee

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is with great pride and honour that I introduce my first this Royal Life Saving Society - Australia (RLSSA) Annual Report and in doing so, reflect on a year of change, challenge, commitment, congratulations and contribution from many.

I was honoured to be elected in October 2015 and follow in the footsteps of outgoing President, Dianne Montalto ES.M. Hers were huge shoes to fill as she has been an outstanding, passionate supporter of the values of Royal Life Saving over decades.

As I write this, 27 Australians, members of our State and Territory branches, have been honoured as recipients of the HRH Prince Michael of Kent 125th Anniversary Certificate of Merit, to acknowledge their significant and exemplary contribution to the Society. To put this into context, across the Commonwealth "Royal Life Saving" nations (25 in all), just 125 people have been awarded this certificate, so more than 20% of the awardees are your fellow RLSSA colleagues. This is an outstanding achievement and one that recognises the integrity, quality and commitment of these "Royal" members.

RLSSA is the sum of our States and Territories. Our achievements are yours; all that the national office and the national board achieve is directly a result of the effort and contributions of members. Any organisation, and RLSSA is no exception, is only as strong, as committed and as contemporary as the people who work tirelessly behind the scenes, they go above and beyond, they just "live" the values of the organisation.

From Darwin to Devonport, from Perth to Peregian, and from the Gold Coast to Glenelg, every day, hundreds of people quietly work away, living the values of RLSSA.

I have had the chance to meet many of these people – volunteers, paid employees, board members, casual trainers – these are people who regardless of where they live, their outlook is large and without boundaries – they innovate, educate and collaborate, and often without fanfare. I would like to pay particular attention to just some of those individuals who have achieved so much for the Society over the last year.

Our esteemed Medical Adviser, Professor John Pearn AO RFD was awarded the King Edward VII Cup for his outstanding contribution to lifesaving. John has the energy of a man a quarter his age and constantly challenges my thinking about how RLSSA can take leadership on new drowning prevention strategies. Mere words cannot do his contribution justice and I feel very humbled by his ongoing support of RLSSA.

Challenges were aplenty and in respect of future funding from governments, both State and Federal, positive relationships continue. The political environment remains dynamic and requires constant attention – my appreciation to our CEO, Justin Scarr who continued to develop strong relationships with key political and business stakeholders.

His leadership of the Australian Water Safety Strategy was acknowledged by Federal Minister Sussan Ley MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care and Minister for Sport and reinforces RLSSA as the preferred provider of strategic water safety advice to government. However, while our place in the aquatic/drowning prevention sector is strong we cannot be complacent. We must remain innovative if we are to gain further government funding and in that, I call on all RLSSA members to remind our business and political stakeholders of the valuable work done by RLSSA.

Our team in the national office continue to work away behind the scenes achieving great outcomes and ensuring the organisation is well positioned at a policy, financial and governance level. A particular highlight this year was the release of the annual Drowning Report which also reinforced RLSSA's place as the highly respected leader of water safety research in Australia. If you haven't read the report, I urge you to, as it provides the basis for why we do what we do.

To our State and Territory senior managers; it doesn't matter if your title is CEO, Executive Director or State Manager – your leadership is vitally important to the work of the national office and you are pivotal in the ongoing achievement of our goals.

I extend my appreciation and thanks to my fellow national board directors for their insight, guidance and good humour. Our decision making process is robust but consultative and while consensus is not always gained, everyone's voice is heard which highlights our collaborative approach.

We know ongoing commitment is required from many and we also know that change is a constant. Our task is to ensure RLSSA is well-positioned to meet the future challenges and remain the preferred provider of aquatic life saving training across Australia.

Pene Snashall
National President
Royal Life Saving Society – Australia

Pene Snashall and HRH Prince Michael of Kent



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Royal Life Saving 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 across the country.

There have been many highlights. The following examples best reinforce our commitment to the new Royal Life Saving Strategic Framework. These include;

- Our contribution to the Department of Health commissioned External Review of Selected Government Water and Snow Safety Organisations. This review provided many valuable insights and lessons. The Board was pleased that our capacity and capability to research, develop, plan, implement, manage and evaluate a complex suite of interventions targeting a range of factors implicated in drowning events was highlighted.
- The Launch of the Respect the River program on the banks of the Murray River early on a Sunday morning in October alongside the Hon Sussan Ley MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care, Minister for Sport being interviewed live by both Today and Sunrise. RLSSA, and drowning prevention more generally is fortunate to have a Minister so personally committed to preventing drowning, particularly across regional Australia.
- Convening the World Conference on Drowning Prevention 2015 in Malaysia on behalf of the International Life Saving Federation. The conference continued Royal Life Saving's commitment to highlighting the global burden of drowning, and advocating action in low and middle income countries.
- Launching the Australian Water Safety Strategy 2016-2020 in Coffs Harbour, NSW in April along with our colleagues from the Australian Water Safety Council and the Minister. The AWSS 2016-2020 continues our aspiration of reducing drowning by 50% by 2020 and has been developed over a two year period of review, consultation and drafting led by RLS staff.
- Convening the inaugural meeting of the National Aquatic Industry Safety Committee (NAISC), a committee of industry representatives from groups such as YMCA, Belgravia, various councils including Brisbane City Council, AUSTSWIM and ASCTA. It is critical that we extend involvement in the development of safety standards and collection of industry data to those most likely to implement such standards at the community.

Each activity highlights our commitment to data, advocacy and action to reduce drowning and swimming, water safety and lifesaving skills across the Australian community.

We acknowledge the work of the National Sport Adviser - Rob Reid, the National Sport Committee, all the officials, coaches, competitors and event staff that contributed to the success of the National Pool Life Saving Championships in Queensland in January 2016. It was a great event, conducted in great spirit.

We acknowledge the contributions of Prof John Pearn AO RFD (National Medical Adviser) and Dr Shayne Baker OAM (National Adviser Education and Training) who worked tirelessly to support and mentor our staff, volunteers and colleagues, as well as represent and advance our work in an expansive range of forums.

We thank all our program partners and contributors to the networks, committees and projects, and the Board for ongoing guidance. We acknowledge the important work of the RLSSA Finance and Audit Committee (FAC), and thank the FAC members and chair Anthony Bandle.

The children and communities who benefited from the Swim and Survive Fund activities this year are a great source of pride. Too many children miss out on a swimming and water safety education, and we are pleased to raise awareness of this issue, as well as contribute to a diverse range of activities in communities across Australia.

We thank Protector Aluminium our Keep Watch partner. This partnership ensures that Keep Watch messages appear on their pool fencing and gate hardware products to promote drowning prevention awareness.

The National Office team has worked extremely hard over the past year and is proud of the results. The following pages outline some of the key achievements, case studies, facts and figures. We especially thank Rhonda Groneman, Monique Sharp, Penny Hodggers, Craig Roberts and Amy Peden for their leadership support, as well all the staff who work with great commitment to our organisational objectives.

Finally I wish to acknowledge the Board, our President Pene Snashall, outgoing President Dianne Montalto ESM and Deputy President Randall Cook for their ongoing guidance and support over the past twelve months.

Justin Scarr
Chief Executive Officer
Royal Life Saving Society – Australia

Justin Scarr and the Hon Sussan Ley MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care, Minister for Sport





ADVOCACY

Royal Life Saving's position on the extensive range of water safety issues in Australia has been developed through years of research and practical experience. Our challenge is to ensure all the issues and our policy responses are understood and supported by government, industry, the corporate sector and the community.

Royal Life Saving is working hard to eliminate drowning. We believe that through nationally coordinated and locally- driven education campaigns we can reduce the number of fatal and non-fatal drowning incidents that occur in Australia each year.

Our advocates are lifesavers.

Our staff actively participate in national and international water safety forums and engage with other community stakeholders who were working to prevent drowning.

In the past year Royal Life Saving provided expert witness testimony and advice to coronial inquests.

We also presented at the following conferences for the Australian Council for the Teaching of Swimming and Water Safety (AUSTSWIM); Australasian Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion; Spark of Life; Masters of Public Health – Injury Prevention 2015; World Conference on Drowning Prevention 2015; and Indigenous Boating Safety Forum 2016.

In addition, Royal Life Saving staff served on the following Standards Australia committees:

- Pool Fencing
- Water Safety Signs
- Flotation Aids for Water Familiarisation and Tuition
- Lifejackets

.....
Royal Life Saving volunteers and staff sit on a range of boards and advisory panels for various not-for-profit organisations.
.....

These organisations include: the Australian Council for the Teaching of Swimming and Water Safety (AUSTSWIM); Australian Resuscitation Council; Australian Water Safety Council; Australian and New Zealand Safe Boating Education Group (ANZSBEG); Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council; NSW Swimming Pool Safety Working Group; Service Skills Australia and the Sport and Recreation and First Aid Industry Reference Committees.

Key Media Campaigns

Royal Life Saving Society - Australia's key media campaigns during 2015/16 included:

Respect the River Campaign

To address the alarming rate of drowning deaths in rivers, Royal Life Saving launched the Respect the River Campaign which included a series of community service announcements on TV, radio, print and online to alert people to the dangers that rivers pose, and also advising on how to enjoy them safely. Refer to page 14 for full details.

Keep Watch Program

With figures showing that 403 children under the age of five have drowned in Australia over the past 13 years, Royal Life Saving launched a campaign urging parents to follow four key actions; supervise, restrict access, water awareness, and resuscitation. Refer to page 32 for full details.

Royal Life Saving Summer Drowning Toll

Released on 22 January 2016, the Summer Drowning Toll highlighted the drowning figures since the start of December 2015, urging Australians to be safe when enjoying the water over the Australia day long weekend.

Rural and Remote Keep Watch Media Campaign

With heavy rainfall and flooding across several states, in February 2016, Royal Life Saving issued a warning to all parents and carers living in rural and remote areas about young children's risk of drowning.

Easter River Safety Reminder

Traditionally there is a spike in drowning deaths on public holidays. In the lead up to the Easter long weekend, Royal Life Saving launched an awareness campaign providing some important drowning prevention tips.

For Life's Sake – The Dangers of Driving through Floodwater Campaign

Having received a community grant from NRMA Insurance to address the risk of floodwater, Royal Life Saving developed and launched on 15 May 2016 a video infographic and social media campaign to highlight the dangers of driving through floodwater. Refer to page 19 for full details.

Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report 2016

Providing insights into who, where, when and how people drowned in Australian waterways over the past year. Refer to page 44 for full details.

These campaigns received significant media coverage across TV, radio, print and social media, educating wide audiences across Australia about water safety and drowning prevention.

Australian Water Safety Strategy 2016 – 2020

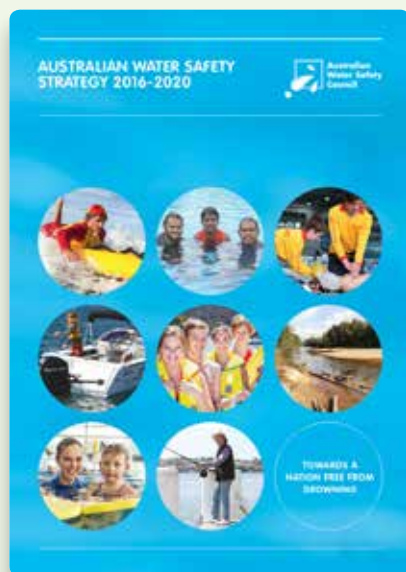
About the Australian Water Safety Council

The Australian Water Safety Council (AWSC) is deeply committed to drowning prevention in Australia and is a collective voice for Australia's leading water safety organisations. The Council acts as a consultative forum comprising the major water safety and related government agencies and focuses on the presentation of key water safety issues to governments, industry and the community.

The Australian Water Safety Council was formed in 1998, and provides a forum for collaboration among peak water safety organisations, conducts annual conferences, workshops and symposiums, and develops, monitors and evaluates progress of the Australian Water Safety Strategy.

The Australian Water Safety Council is committed to improving water safety in Australia as demonstrated through the production and implementation of four National Water Safety Plans/Strategies. These documents have generated bipartisan support for water safety in Australia and have seen the improvement of water safety throughout the country.

The Australian Water Safety Council member bodies continue to demonstrate their commitment to water safety by directing resources of their respective organisations towards the development and implementation of the Australian Water Safety Strategy.



Above: Cover of the Australian Water Safety Strategy (AWSS) 2016-2020

Australian Water Safety Strategy 2016 – 2020

In April 2016 the Australian Water Safety Strategy 2016-2020 was launched by the Hon. Sussan Ley MP, Minister for Health, Aged Care and Sport in conjunction with the Australian Water Safety Council (AWSC).

The Strategy continues the AWSC's goal of reducing fatal drowning by 50% by the year 2020. It outlines priority areas in which Australian peak water safety bodies Royal Life Saving, Surf Life Saving and AUSTSWIM, AWSC Members and Federal, State/Territory and Local Governments must work together to prevent drowning.

Drowning data in the report shows that 3,116 lives were lost to drowning in the eleven years from 2004/05 to 2014/15, or an average of 283 deaths per year. Drowning impact is greatest in:

- Children under five
- Coastal and inland waterways
- Those from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds

"Strong progress is being made in reducing drowning risk, particularly among children, as well as increased emphasis on eliminating factors that contribute to drowning deaths in coastal locations and inland waterways. The new Strategy calls for an increased focus on men who drown at rates four times higher than women, often whilst under the influence of alcohol and other drugs."

Justin Scarr, Chair of the Australian Water Safety Council and Chief Executive Officer of Royal Life Saving

The strategy identifies the supporting activities, or 'Drowning Prevention Pillars', which will play a key role in the achievement of the strategy's goals.

Drowning Prevention Pillars:

- Advocacy
- Research
- Collaboration
- Safe Venues
- Workforce
- Policy
- Education

Image: Launch of the Australian Water Safety Strategy 2016-2020, from left to right: Jennifer Schembri-Portelli, AUSTSWIM CEO; Luke Hartsuyker MP; Hon. Sussan Ley MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care, Minister for Sport; Melissa King, Surf Life Saving Australia CEO; Justin Scarr, Royal Life Saving Society – Australia CEO

GOALS OF THE AUSTRALIAN WATER SAFETY STRATEGY 2016-2020

Reduce drowning deaths by 50% by 2020

PRIORITY AREA ONE - TAKING A LIFE STAGES APPROACH



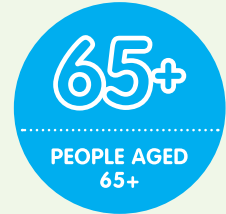
GOAL 1



GOAL 2



GOAL 3



GOAL 4

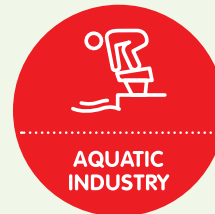
PRIORITY AREA TWO - TARGETING HIGH-RISK LOCATIONS



GOAL 5



GOAL 6



GOAL 7

PRIORITY AREA THREE - FOCUSING ON KEY DROWNING CHALLENGES



GOAL 8



GOAL 9



GOAL 10



GOAL 11



Watch our video on the
Australian Water Safety Strategy:
[youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust](https://www.youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust)

Respect the River

With support from the Federal Government, Royal Life Saving is working across Australia to promote safe aquatic recreation and prevent drowning in inland waterways. Rivers account for over one quarter of all drowning deaths, making rivers the leading location for drowning in Australia. It's simple – Respect the River.

- WEAR A LIFEJACKET
- AVOID ALCOHOL AROUND WATER
- NEVER SWIM ALONE
- LEARN HOW TO SAVE A LIFE.

The Respect the River campaign was launched by the Hon. Sussan Ley MP Minister for Sport and Minister for Health and Royal Life Saving Chief Executive Officer Justin Scarr on Sunday 25th October on the banks of the Murray River at Albury.

Inland waterways contain many environments where drowning deaths occur – rivers, lakes, dams, irrigation channels, water tanks and creeks have all been sites of drowning deaths. The flat, still surface of an inland waterway can give a false sense of security. Currents, undertows or submerged objects – even in seemingly tranquil waterways – can prove to be very dangerous.

Inland waterways are not patrolled by lifeguards, and should someone get into trouble, there may be no one there to assist.

Royal Life Saving Top 10 River Drowning Black Spots

1. Murray River
2. Brisbane River (QLD)
3. Yarra River (VIC)
4. Swan River (WA)
5. Hawkesbury River (NSW)
6. Murrumbidgee River (NSW)
7. Sandy Creek (QLD)
8. Derwent River (TAS)
9. Katherine River (NT)
10. Macquarie River (NSW)



KEY FACTS

989

PEOPLE HAVE DROWNED IN AUSTRALIAN RIVERS, CREEKS AND STREAMS BETWEEN 1 JULY 2002 AND 30 JUNE 2015

68

PEOPLE DROWNED IN THE MURRAY RIVER BETWEEN 1 JULY 2002 AND 30 JUNE 2015, MAKING THE MURRAY RIVER THE NUMBER ONE RIVER DROWNING BLACKSPOT IN AUSTRALIA.

58

PEOPLE DROWNED IN AUSTRALIAN RIVERS, CREEKS AND STREAMS BETWEEN 1 JULY 2015 AND 30 JUNE 2016



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

Respect the River Benchmark Report

Taverner Research was commissioned by Royal Life Saving Society – Australia to conduct a quantitative survey of individuals who lived within 50km of the Murray River. The research was conducted to obtain benchmark data to determine the reach and efficacy of the Respect the River campaign launched in November. The research was conducted in two parts; pre-launch (October) interviewing and post-launch (January).

Key trends in research:

- Rivers were the most widely visited location in the past 12 months
- Walking beside the water was the most popular aquatic activity
- Just under half of respondents believed that drowning deaths in rivers mainly occurred amongst international tourists
- The majority of respondents indicated that the wearing of lifejackets when boating should be mandatory for everyone
- TV was the preferred channel for receiving water safety messages

The research report following the launch of the Respect the River Campaign revealed that 8% more (total of 76%) respondents than the pre-launch research believed community awareness of water safety had increased in the past 3 years. An increase of 8% (total of 28%) identified that they had heard of the Respect the River Campaign.



Respect the River

Saving lives in Australian Rivers

AN INITIATIVE OF

SUPPORTED BY



Respect the River Testimonials

Local People. Local Stories

The Respect the River project has interviewed a number of people local to the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers (the first and sixth highest river drowning blackspots in Australia) to discuss living and recreating in the local river.

They each shared their stories of fun, danger and respect for the river environment. Watch the 'Respect the River' videos at: youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust



Neil Patchett



Stuart Dye & Peter Wright



Nat Jacobs



Mick Dasey



Joh Paynter



David Buchtman



David Barrett



Danny Russell

WHEN ENJOYING OUR RIVERS REMEMBER...



WEAR A LIFEJACKET



AVOID ALCOHOL AROUND WATER



NEVER SWIM ALONE



LEARN HOW TO SAVE A LIFE

Respect the River Activities

A Day at the Lake

With 8 rivers, 121 creeks, 4 lakes and a dam the Australian Capital Territory's inland waterways are underestimated more often than not. Royal Life Saving ACT has been working hard within the community to raise awareness of the dangers in these local areas and to highlight the hidden risks. Activities such as the 'A Day at the Lake' community event and 'Lochie on Tour' water safety talks in schools were extremely successful in reaching large populations with the national RLSSA Respect the River message.

On Sunday 6th December 2015, the inaugural 'A Day at the Lake' event was launched.

The local aquatic recreation industry worked together to provide the community with an opportunity to learn about all the great attractions Lake Burley Griffin has to offer as well as the safest ways to get involved.

The event also engaged other local sporting organisations to encourage aquatics and water safety and promote healthy and active lifestyles.

Activities included:

- FM104.7 Roadshow with giveaways
- Face painting, jumping castles and balloons
- Royal Life Saving ACT BBQ
- Live entertainment
- Free CPR awareness training
- Scavenger hunt





Respect the River Roadshow

Royal Life Saving partnered with NSW Roads and Maritimes Old4New Lifejacket program to establish the Respect the River - Murray River Roadshow. The program was designed to highlight a number of key safety messages for drowning prevention, targeting areas along the Murray River (and other NSW locations).

The program educates the community about the risks of drowning in rivers, combined with water safety messages.

The Old4New lifejacket program aims to make more boaters aware of the range of modern, slim-fitting lifejackets. In the last decade alone, 9 out of 10 people who drowned in NSW while boating were not wearing a lifejacket.

The Old4New program is just part of a wider campaign to get people into the habit of wearing a lifejacket when they go boating.



BE RiverSafe Campaign – Northern Territory

BE RiverSafe, generated by the community, was launched in Katherine at the 50th Katherine Regional Show. BE RiverSafe has 5 key messages focusing on different community groups within the NT:

1. Look. Think. Decide
2. Educate Watch ya Mate
3. Our Rivers, Your Family. Keep Watch
4. River Safe is River Sober
5. If it's flooded, forget it.

Member for Katherine, Willem Westra van Holthe introduced key messages to the Katherine community at the show. Through the extended consultation period in Katherine many local residents recognised the project and were interested in its outcomes.

A total of 4,800 river safety resources were provided to the public during the 2015 show circuit.



Swim and Survive on the Swan

As part of the Respect the River campaign, Swim and Survive on the Swan was developed.

The 'Swim and Survive on the Swan' program works in the Western Australian community to promote safe aquatic recreation on the Swan River in partnership with government, recreation clubs and local aquatic centres. The project targets all recreational users of the Swan River, in particular; children; youth; CALD communities; Sea Scout and marine education groups.

Swim and Survive on the Swan is designed to raise awareness of the potential hazards at river locations, while also educating participants on safe aquatic behaviours and encouraging the community to use the river, including migrant and indigenous populations.

National Drowning Prevention Workshop - Men and Alcohol

On Thursday 21 April, Royal Life Saving Society – Australia brought together researchers, policy makers, and advertising and communications specialists to discuss related issues including men’s health, health promotion and advertising strategies targeting men, alcohol and water safety. The workshop was designed to bring a vital focus to reducing drowning in men and changing their view on alcohol and the associated risks around rivers, creeks and streams.

Workshop attendees:

Royal Life Saving Society – Australia

- Justin Scarr, Chief Executive Officer
- Craig Roberts, National Manager Aquatic Risk Management
- Amy Peden, National Manager Research and Policy
- Monique Sharp, National Manager Events and Marketing
- Alison Mahony, Senior Project Officer Research and Policy

Royal Life Saving Society – State and Territory Member Organisations

- Kimberly Noffs, Health Promotion Co-ordinator, Royal Life Saving Society NSW
- Floss Roberts, Executive Director, Royal Life Saving Society NT
- Stephen Gazzola, Remote Swim, Survive and Strive Manager, Royal Life Saving Society NT
- Paul Shannon, General Manager, Government and Industry Relations, Life Saving Victoria
- Lauren Nimmo, Community Health Manager, Royal Life Saving Society WA

Subject Matter Experts

- Professor John Macdonald, University of Western Sydney
- Neil Patchett, Manager Stakeholder and Community Engagement, Maritime Management Centre, Transport NSW
- Hannah Parnell, A/Manager Safer People, Senior Researcher Policy Analyst, Transport for NSW and Centre for Road Safety
- Janine Scott, General Manager – Marketing and Communications, Beyond Blue – Men’s Mental Health
- Gill Walker, Founder and Managing Director, Evergreen – Older person’s marketing and communications
- Professor Linda Brennan, School of Media and Communication, RMIT University

Workshop Objectives:

1. Understand the Nationally Significant Drowning Issue
2. Understand the complexities in reaching out to and creating behavioural change
3. Developing recommendations for the development of specific strategies in 2016/17 and future years

Key findings and lessons learnt

The Workshop discussed a range of key findings and lessons learnt from the presentations:

- A multifaceted approach has worked with previous campaigns including combining policy (legislation / regulation) and education
- Peer Education or Mates Education is a key success factor
- It is important to engage the target audience in the program development
- Males respond better to protecting others and their mates rather than themselves
- Humour and positive messages is a key to long lasting messaging being received for behavioural change. Focuses should be on Positive Behaviour and Negative Consequences (i.e. traffic fine)
- The greater the targeted focus of the campaign the greater the success
- Personal responsibility needs to be emphasised as the outcome but not necessarily the deliverable
- Where possible and relevant, enforcement should be coordinated and used in combination with the message
- Stakeholder engagement is key to more expansive reception and adoption of the message and its objective
- A partnership approach has many benefits to ensuring a successful campaign with limited funding
- Narrative, real stories and peer to peer stories are what work best with the targeted demographic
- Evidence shows that website with backslashes for their campaign generate less traffic
- Campaigns need to also look at the environment to which the target demographic is in and not just the drowning statistics
- Further research work is also needed to better understand the characteristics of the demographic, drowning incidents and how they are reported and the legislative and regulatory environments surrounding the activity of drinking alcohol in and around rivers.



Flood Safety

For Life's Sake – The Dangers of Driving through Floodwater Campaign

Royal Life Saving Society – Australia with the support of NRMA Insurance, developed a video infographic to highlight the dangers of driving through floodwater. Titled "For Life's Sake", the infographic explores the risks, consequences and social impacts of driving through floodwater, providing practical safety actions to reduce fatal and non-fatal drowning.

One of the primary objectives of the infographic was to highlight the flow-on effect of the risk-taking behaviour on the drivers' passengers, family, emergency service personnel and rescuers. The infographic provides the community with practical knowledge and skills to make safer, informed decisions around floodwater.

Since the release of the infographic on 15 May 2016, the video has had over 8,300 views and has been highly commended by the Community Engagement Division of the New South Wales State Emergency Service.

The infographic is a valuable tool for Royal Life Saving in raising awareness of the dangers of driving through floodwater.

Royal Life Saving monitors weather conditions across Australia and activates the infographic through social media channels at key times throughout the year to ensure essential safety messages are prominent during times of flooding.

Research Study – Understanding Drivers' Knowledge and Attitudes

Between 2004/05 and 2014/15 there were 159 drowning deaths known to have involved flooding across Australia, with over half of these known to be as a result of driving through floodwater.

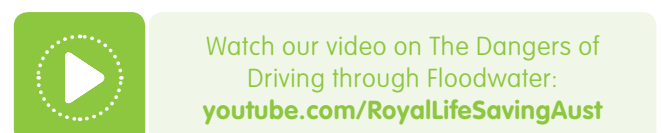
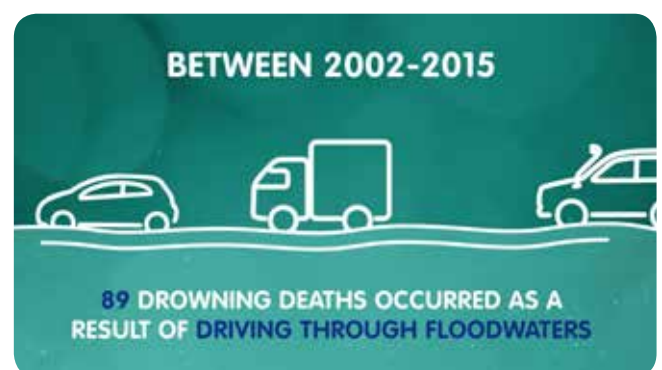
Royal Life Saving Society – Australia in partnership with Griffith University conducted a qualitative study to develop an understanding of drivers' knowledge and attitudes towards driving through floodwater. All 20 participants had intentionally driven through floodwater.

The study is the first to explore drivers' descriptions of the influences on their decision to drive through a road covered in water. Through inductive analyses of interviews in which drivers provided rich in-depth descriptions of their lived experience, the study was able to isolate a range of commonly occurring themes which will be instrumental in planning future research and interventions aimed at reducing the prevalence of this risky behaviour.

Four overarching behavioural themes emerged in the drivers' descriptions of factors that influenced their decision to drive through flooded waterways are outlined below:

1. Past experience (e.g. successfully having driven through floodwaters before)
2. Individual factors (e.g. situation perceived as different to warnings)
3. Social environment context (e.g. pressure and encouragement from others, seeing other motorists driving through)
4. Self-efficacy judgements (belief in one's own ability to successfully drive through floodwaters)

Research is continuing in this space to further understand why drivers choose to or not to drive through floodwater and their perception of the risks involved. The findings from the research studies will be utilised to develop public education materials and prevention programs aimed at road users.





EDUCATION

Royal Life Saving's water safety education programs are designed so all Australians have the skills and knowledge to safely participate in a range of aquatic activities.

Our programs build awareness of dangers in aquatic environments, teach essential water safety skills and develop lifesaving skills that may one day save a life; reflecting Royal Life Saving's mantra that 'Everyone can be a Lifesaver'.

The range of programs allows individuals to continually develop their skills and knowledge as they move through different life stages, reflecting the unique challenges that are specific to each age group. These challenges include: water familiarisation for young children; foundation skills for primary aged children; essential survival and lifesaving skills for teenagers; and water safety for older adults.

Our key education programs include:

- Swim and Survive:
 - Wonder (6–36 months)
 - Active (3–5 years)
 - Courage (5–14 years)
- Water Smart
- Bronze Medallion
- Bronze e-Lifesaving
- Grey Medallion

707,083

EDUCATION AWARDS ISSUED BY ROYAL LIFE SAVING IN 2015/16

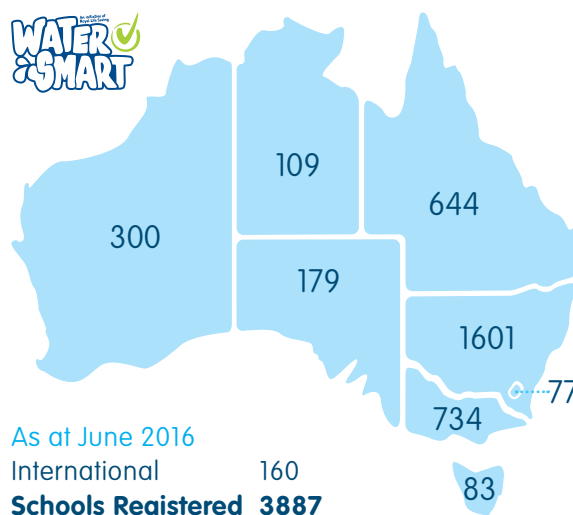
551,332	SWIM AND SURVIVE (78%)
125,256	WATER SAFETY EDUCATION CLASSROOM (17.7%) (INCLUDES WATER SMART)
21,472	BRONZE (3%)
3,588	RESCUE STRAND (0.5%)
3,250	JUNIOR LIFEGUARD CLUB PARTICIPANTS (0.5%)
2,128	GREY MEDALLION (0.30%)
57	ADV LIFESAVING (0.01%)

Water Smart

Water Smart is a classroom based program aimed to increase water safety education for school students.

Over the past year, use of the Water Smart classroom resources and achievement of the Water Smart Award has continued to increase. The Water Smart classroom resources are used by preschools, primary schools, secondary schools, community groups such as scouts and girl guides, and swim schools. The resources are also accessed by a number of international schools and organisations.

The number of schools/teachers that have registered over the past financial year has increased by 46% to 3887.



Key water smart resources accessed from within the registered schools zone – 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.

PAGE	PAGE VIEWS
Water Smart Award	613
Level 1- Foundation (units of work)	2,303
Level 2 – Years 1 and 2 (units of work)	3,254
Level 3 – Years 3 and 4 (units of work)	2,180
Level 4 – Years 5 and 6 (units of work)	2,100
Level 5 and 6 – Years 7 to 10 (units of work)	2,050
Supplementary resources	1,618
Water safety tips	325
Water safety posters	466
Be Water Smart Video	996
Water Safety CSAs	225
TOTAL	16,130

Swim and Survive

Swim and Survive is a national swimming and water safety initiative of Royal Life Saving that teaches Australian children essential life-skills in swimming, water safety and personal survival.

Over 500,000 children participate in Swim and Survive each year.

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.

Swim and Survive is delivered in pools, schools and other aquatic locations across the country by qualified swimming and water safety instructors.

Swim and Survive Partners

A Swim and Survive Partner is a preferred, quality deliverer of the Swim and Survive program that works together with Royal Life Saving to deliver key water safety messages. Swim and Survive is delivered in every State and Territory by over 500 Swim and Survive Partners every year.

Becoming a Swim and Survive Partner requires facilities to operate to standards of best practice, to ensure the delivery of a quality, well-balanced swimming and water safety curriculum.

Swim and Survive Partners engage parents and carers, families and schools, encouraging communities to be proactive about water safety to reduce the impact of fatal and non-fatal drowning.

Feedback from partners:

"It's a great organic and growing program and I'm really happy to be a part of it."

"I think that Swim and Survive is an amazing program and we should make sure that everyone is delivering it to the best of its potential."

Swim and Survive Partner Survey:

In January 2016, Royal Life Saving conducted an online survey to obtain an insight into what Partners valued, seek feedback on future improvements and build an understanding of the support that would further assist in the delivery, promotion and advocacy of swimming and water safety skills.

The results of the survey indicated that Swim and Survive Partners highly value their association with the Royal Life Saving brand and the quality of the swimming and water safety curriculum that Swim and Survive provides.

Key findings from the survey include:

- 88% stated that collaboration on advocacy for swimming and water safety was either important or very important
- 86% stated that the association with the Royal Life Saving brand was either important or very important
- 98% stated that the quality swimming and water safety curriculum of Swim and Survive was either important or very important



Website

www.swimandsurvive.com.au

Visitors to the Swim and Survive website have grown over the past 12 months, with over 3,600 unique visitors accessing the website for the first time. The website continues to be a valuable source of information for parents and carers, primary and secondary schools and aquatic facilities.

Schools can register to access the Water Smart Education Toolkit via the Swim and Survive website, which contains curriculum materials for students from Foundation to Year 10.

	2014/15	2015/16
Visit/ Sessions	68,266	73,650
Unique Visitors	52,353 (76.7%)	55,976 (75.9%)
Page Views	276,402	286,969
Pages per Visit	4.05	3.90
Average Visit Duration	00:03:12	00:03:07
Top 5 Page Views	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Homepage 2. Water Safety: Kids Zone 3. Activities: Kids Zone 4. Program Information 5. Water Safety: Kids Zone: 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Homepage 2. Water Safety: Kids Zone 3. Games: Kids Zone 4. Activities: Kids Zone 5. Program Information



Swim and Survive Facebook

www.facebook.com/swimandsurvive

Swim and Survive has an online network 1,366 passionate parents and carers, families, aquatic facilities and swimming and water safety instructors that advocate the value of water safety education.

In 2015/16, Swim and Survive produced three series of Facebook tiles to communicate Royal Life Saving's key water safety messages as part of a cohesive engagement strategy. Followers were encouraged to share the tiles with their online community, raising awareness of key drowning prevention issues and providing practical water safety tips. **Some of the most popular tiles shared include:**



Lifesaving Awards and Bronze e-Lifesaving

Royal Life Saving is continuing to encourage schools and community groups to adopt lifesaving programs for their students and members as a valuable educational experience as well as providing skills that may lead to a career pathway or may one day save a life.

New award guides

To support instructors in the delivery of the lifesaving awards, new Award Guides were developed. These Award Guides replace the outdated Bronzepak, have been simplified and are available in a PDF format.

The Award Guides are individual guides for each award so instructors can utilise the guides applicable to them. The following resources are available from State and Territory offices:

- Dry rescue
- Wade rescue
- Accompanied rescue
- Bronze star
- Bronze medallion
- Bronze cross
- Initiative scenarios
- Quick reference 'must see'

Swimming and Lifesaving Revised 6th edition

Royal Life Saving's benchmark publication, Swimming and Lifesaving was revised during this period to incorporate changes in resuscitation and first aid guidelines, Australian standards of lifejackets and water safety signage and drowning death statistics.

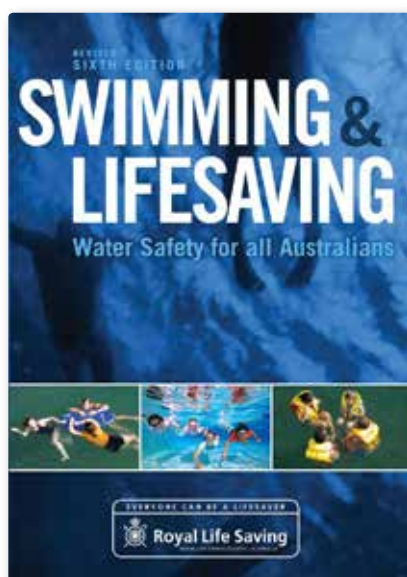
At the same time we took the opportunity to update some of the older photos. The revised 6th edition went to print at the completion of this period to be ready for release in late 2016.

Promotional activities

Over the past year, Royal Life Saving has been working on promoting the Bronze e-Lifesaving program to schools and teachers, encouraging young Australians to take the challenge and complete a Bronze Medallion, the benchmark award and communicate key safety messages relevant to these age groups.

A series of ten Facebook tiles were designed as a mechanism for promotion.

A feature article in the Achper e-News and advertising via a website banner on Achper's website and a full-page in Achper's Active and Healthy magazine was undertaken to promote the Bronze e-Lifesaving program directly to Health and Physical education teachers.



BRONZE e-LIFESAVING

The Bronze e-Lifesaving program has continued to be supported by the Australian Government through Saving Lives in the Water funding and offered as a FREE program for all Australian Secondary Schools.

Bronze e-Lifesaving teaches students 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, using an online platform to engage students.

School teachers order token codes for the number of students in their class in lieu of payment. The following table shows the token orders by State/Territory for 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016:

	UNIT 1	UNIT 2
ACT	0	208
NSW	2,469	1,832
NT	257	308
QLD	602	1,099
SA	378	342
TAS	134	242
VIC	1,776	581
WA	539	553
TOTAL	6,155	5,165

From the launch of Bronze e-Lifesaving in November 2014 to date, 11,659 participants have enrolled in the program with 5,868 (50%) having completed.

For further details visit: www.e-lifesaving.com.au

BRONZE



Watch the Bronze e-Lifesaving video at:
youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust

Grey Medallion

The National Drowning Report 2015/16 shows 58 Australians aged 65 years and over drowned, accounting for 21% of all drowning deaths.

Beaches, rivers, creeks and streams are the leading aquatic location of drowning deaths for this age group with 27 drowning deaths (or 47%).

As Australia's population is ageing, there is increasing concern for older Australian's health and wellbeing, particularly as this age group become more at risk when in and around water. Encouraging older people to be physically active is important and exercising in water is an ideal activity, but it is not without risk. Greater participation in aquatic recreation often occurs as people retire and trends such as making a 'sea or tree change' continue.

The Grey Medallion program aims to address the consistently high drowning death toll for the over 55's by providing older adults with practical water safety skills and knowledge in order to recreate with safety as a priority.

The program provides participants with experiences in survival techniques such as treading water, floating and sculling, dry rescues such as a reach or throw rescue, swimming skills and basic resuscitation in order to reduce the likelihood of drowning.

During the last year, courses were held across Australia including Ithacca Caloundra City Life Saving club.

Further, promotion of the Grey Medallion program has been a key message from the Royal Life Saving "The Talk" public awareness campaign. Highlighting the drowning risk in older people, Royal Life Saving promotes some simple drowning prevention tips, including the importance of learning lifesaving skills and the Grey Medallion program for over 55's to be empowered to handle a range of water emergencies.



Watch the 'Grey Medallion and "The Talk" videos at:
youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust



TRAINING

Since 1894, Royal Life Saving has been training Australians to be lifesavers.

While the principles have not changed, we are now training people to use these lifesaving skills in a wide range of workplaces and communities.

Our key training programs include:

- First Aid and Emergency Care
- Resuscitation (CPR)
- Pool Lifeguarding
- Bronze Medallion
- Swim Teaching (AUSTSWIM)
- Pool Operations
- Professional Development

VET Committee Members

Cherry Bailey and Dayne Garani – ACT

Ian Brown – WA

Anthony Cottee – NSW

Michael Darben – QLD

Brian O'Mahony – VIC

Floss Roberts – NT

Paula Robertson - TAS

Tony Taylor – SA

Jo Voltz – QLD

Penny Hodgers and Ben Cuttriss – NAT

330,429

TRAINING AWARDS ISSUED BY ROYAL LIFE SAVING IN 2015/16

204,888	RESUSCITATION (62.0%)
90,507	FIRST AID (27.4%)
23,033	POOL LIFEGUARD (7.0%)
7,516	BRONZE MEDALLION (2.3%)
1,902	AUSTSWIM (0.6%) TEACHER OF SWIMMING AND WATER SAFETY
1,538	POOL OPERATIONS (0.5%)
719	INSTRUCTOR/TRAINER ASSESSOR (0.2%)
326	AUSTSWIM – EXTENSION COURSES (0.1%)

Vocational Education and Training (VET)

The VET Committee has continued to work together on the expansion of the Vocational Training Capacity Plan, with significant outcomes being achieved in compliance, best practice and communication, stronger training governance and progressive improvement across all training departments.

The 2015/16 year was the first full year using a Training Management System for the majority of the States and Territories. The change has been positive, with a greater level of compliance, an easier booking process for participants, a reduced administrative burden on staff, and greater engagement with participants post-course. Monthly meetings with the main users from each State have been very productive, encouraging collaboration between the users.

At the end of 2015, Industry Skills Councils were disbanded and replaced by Skills Service Organisations. Reporting to the Australian Industry and Skills Committee, Skills Service Organisations will work with Industry Reference Committees to review and develop training packages. It is anticipated that there will be an increase in industry consultation, which is welcomed. RLSSA is a representative on both the First Aid and the Community Recreation Industry Reference Committees.

The work carried out by the reference group to review and redevelop the Community Recreation Units of Competency and Qualifications within the Sport, Fitness and Recreation Training Package was completed with the release of the Certificate III in Aquatics and Community Recreation released in September 2015. RLSSA believes that the new units will achieve more relevant vocational outcomes for the industry.

The latest International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR) guidelines were released in October 2015. In January 2016, the Australian Resuscitation Council (ARC) released its updated guidelines. Some of the changes included the use of semi rigid cervical collars no longer being recommended, and compressions during resuscitation is recommended at a rate of 100 – 120 per minute.

Training Courses

Royal Life Saving believes that everyone can be a lifesaver. Whether as a responsible member of the community or for a lifesaving career, the skills you learn are skills for life.

First Aid

Royal Life Saving First Aid training courses are compliant with Workplace Health and Safety requirements and provide participants with the knowledge and skills to administer first aid until professional medical help arrives. Anyone - parents, workers, passers-by - may have to give first aid at some time, giving credence to Royal Life Saving's motto that "Everyone can be a lifesaver".

Royal Life Saving provides both traditional and flexible training delivery methods including First Aid in a Box – a self-paced, flexible training program. Candidates receive their own learning manikin and DVD and complete the theory and online assessments at their own pace.

Upon completing the online content and learning CPR, candidates are required to attend a two-hour practical workshop to refine their first aid skills and be assessed for their first aid qualification.



Resuscitation

Resuscitation - the actions taken to keep a person alive after their own breathing and heartbeat have stopped - can mean the difference between life and death. Early intervention with Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) can and will save lives. Royal Life Saving Resuscitation courses give participants training and knowledge in Basic Life Support, CPR, Defibrillation, Oxygen Resuscitation and Emergency Care.

All Royal Life Saving resuscitation training is delivered in accordance with the Australian Resuscitation Council (ARC) guidelines and gives both theoretical and practical experience in CPR and associated emergency care.



Pool Lifeguard

Australian Lifeguards are world-renowned for their high levels of skill and knowledge in accident prevention and rescue response. The minimum industry requirement for employment as a Pool Lifeguard in a swimming pool or aquatic facility is the RLSSA Pool Lifeguard Certificate.

This entry-level qualification is recognised across Australia and in many other countries and provides a gateway into an exciting lifeguarding and aquatics career. The course covers essential modules such as accident prevention, administration, public relations, education, rescue response and basic technical operations.



Bronze Medallion

The majority of drowning accidents occur inland in places such as rivers, dams and home swimming pools. Such places are rarely patrolled by qualified lifeguards.

It is therefore important that all members of the community learn some lifesaving techniques. The thoughtful application of the knowledge and skill provided within this program will save lives, ensure the rescuer's safety and prevent a possible double drowning. The Royal Life Saving Bronze Medallion is recognised as the minimum standard for a qualified lifesaver. This award also increases employment opportunities with many pools and aquatic centres as they require employees who conduct aquatic programs to have their Bronze Medallion.



Swim Teaching - AUSTSWIM Training Programs

AUSTSWIM is Australia's national organisation for the teaching of swimming and water safety and has gained an outstanding reputation. AUSTSWIM has developed quality aquatic education programs for those wishing to enter the aquatic industry as a teacher of swimming and water safety. The accreditation is the industry standard for Swimming and Water Safety Teachers™ and is delivered and recognised in each State and Territory of Australia and many countries overseas. As a foundation member of AUSTSWIM, Royal Life Saving is a proud supplier of AUSTSWIM courses including:

- Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety
- Teacher of Adults
- Teacher of Aquatics to People with Disabilities
- Teacher of Competitive Strokes
- Teacher of Infant and Preschool Aquatics



Pool Operations

Royal Life Saving currently offers the Pool Operations course to assist industry bodies in meeting their obligations to industry best practice. This course is only one in a series of programs that Royal Life Saving offers to industry. This course provides candidates with the knowledge and skills relevant to the supervision and operation of an aquatic facility, plant and associated equipment and the monitoring and maintaining of water quality. This course is the industry standard for pool supervisors.



Professional Development

Working in the Aquatic and Recreation Industry can lead to a dynamic, balanced and flexible career with a range of employment opportunities. Royal Life Saving can help candidates to improve and succeed in their chosen career by providing a range of Professional Development courses and workshops including Conflict Resolution, Risk Management, Emergency Procedures, Supervisors and Aquatic Customer Service right through to a full qualification in Certificate III in Aquatics and Certificate IV in Community Recreation.





HEALTH PROMOTION

Royal Life Saving's commitment to reducing drowning and aquatic-related incidents is best seen through the creation of water-safe communities.

Royal Life Saving has achieved this through a proud history of promoting safe aquatic recreation and by developing health promotion programs that target special needs groups such as:

- Children under five (Keep Watch)
- Remote Indigenous Communities
- Rural and Regional Communities
- Refugees, Recent Arrivals and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities
- Older Australians (Grey Medallion)
- Others including alcohol related drowning deaths



Keep Watch

Keep Watch continues to be Australia's most comprehensive drowning prevention and water safety program for children under five. The program has a wide range of resources and sub-programs targeting parents and carers that are designed for specific locations such as bath time, the farm and public pools.

Protector Aluminium has partnered with Royal Life Saving to promote child drowning prevention. Protector Aluminium has had a long term commitment to water safety through its range of pool fencing and pool gate hardware. Protector Aluminium continues to promote the messages of Keep Watch on its products and to its customers.

With over 190 public pools across Australia participating in the Keep Watch @ Public Pools program, and hundreds of thousands of resources distributed across Australia, Royal Life Saving continues to work towards ensuring that all children under the age of five are safe when in, on, or around water. In Western Australia and Victoria, our members support Watch Around Water which shares similar objectives.

The Keep Watch and Home Pool Safety websites (keepwatch.com.au & homepoolsafety.com.au) provide an invaluable source of information for parents/carers, grandparents, child care workers, swim teachers, community health workers and others interested in preventing child drowning. Both websites include fact sheets and a range of vital information, freely available to download and print.

These regularly reviewed and updated fact sheets are designed to help people keep themselves, and others in their care, safe at aquatic locations or whilst undertaking aquatic activities.

The 28 fact sheets cover a range of topics from the four Keep Watch actions of: Supervise; Restrict Access; Water Awareness; Resuscitation, to farm water safety, water safety around the home and watercraft safety.

The following Keep Watch resources are distributed across Australia to support the messages of the program:

- Keep Watch CPR Fridge Magnets
- Keep Watch Brochures
- Keep Watch @ The Farm Brochures
- Please Close the Gate Farm Signs
- Keep Watch @ Bath Time Brochures
- Keep Watch @ Bath Time Tap Hangers
- Home Pool Safety Checklists
- Keep Watch Key Message Posters
- Keep Watch Information Manual

Keep Watch supported by:



Keep Watch Video Infographic

Young children are the age group most at risk of drowning. They are naturally curious and attracted to water but don't yet understand the concept of danger. New research identified how many children under the age of five have drowned in Australia, as well as key trends regarding how and where they drowned.

The Keep Watch program promotes four key messages; simple safety tips for parents and carers of young children. The need to increase awareness of child drowning, as well as promote drowning prevention strategies led to the creation of a video infographic, focused on the core messages of the Keep Watch program. This video was added to the Royal Life Saving YouTube Channel of resources in addition to being shared on Social Media.

The statistics in the video's introduction reveal that four hundred and three children under the age of five drowned in Australian waterways between 2002 and 2015, representing one in ten drowning deaths in Australia. More than three quarters of these deaths occurred as a result of an unexpected fall into water and over half occurred in home swimming pools.

Royal Life Saving CEO Justin Scarr says "Supervision is key to preventing child drowning, even a moment's distraction can lead to tragedy. Home swimming pools are the leading location for drowning in young children so it's crucial that parents remain vigilant in keeping an eye on their children at all times in, on or around the water".

In addition to each fatal drowning, many more children are involved in non-fatal incidents, which can lead to lifelong injury and significant neurological impairment.

The high burden of drowning among young children in home swimming pools reinforces the importance of the Keep Watch program and the key drowning prevention strategies it promotes.

Royal Life Saving believes these deaths are all preventable tragedies and urges parents to Keep Watch to prevent children from drowning.

For further details visit: www.keepwatch.com.au

The four key messages of Keep Watch:

1. SUPERVISE

Supervise your children when in, on or around water. Remember, all of your attention, all of the time.

2. RESTRICT ACCESS

Restrict access by placing a barrier around water, such as a correctly installed and regularly maintained pool fence with a self-closing and self-latching gate.

3. WATER AWARENESS

Familiarise your children with water by enrolling them in water awareness classes and spending time with them in the water.

4. RESUSCITATE

Learn how to resuscitate and ensure your skills are up to date.



Watch this video "Keep Watch Infographic" at youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust

The Talk – Reducing Drowning in People Aged 60 Years and Over

In a bid to reduce the number of older people drowning each and every year in Australia, Royal Life Saving developed 'The Talk', a public awareness campaign aimed at highlighting the drowning risk in older people and communicating some simple drowning prevention tips.

"For many years Royal Life Saving has been urging people to consider the safety of children around water, but what this research shows is that increasingly families should be concerned about preventing drowning in those over the age of 60 years. We are encouraging people to have "the talk" with their parents about the risk factors for drowning and the simple steps to reduce their drowning risk to help them to enjoy the water safely." Justin Scarr, CEO, Royal Life Saving.

With older people, particularly the baby boomers now more likely to engage in aquatic activities such as swimming and boating, they are encouraged to check they are 'fit for swimming', undergo a medical check-up before participating in aquatic activities and understand the impacts of medical conditions and medication on their ability to safely enjoy the water.

Older people are also encouraged to participate in a Royal Life Saving Grey Medallion program, Adult Learn to Swim, or even check their skills at their local swimming pool prior to boating or swimming at the local river or beach this summer.

This campaign saw the release of a TV Community Service Announcement (CSA) and dedicated micro-site to support the campaign. In the CSA a son decides to have "The Talk" with his father while fishing. If it's done in the right way, "The Talk" can be a positive and potentially lifesaving conversation.



Watch this CSA "The Talk" at:
[youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust](https://www.youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust)

Media Case Study: Probus and Starts at 60 Campaign

In order to reach the target audience, it was determined that partnerships with existing organisations which cater towards older Australians would be an effective way of communicating Royal Life Saving's key drowning prevention messages. Partnerships were formed with two organisations, Probus and Starts at 60.

Probus is a well-established organisation which caters to older members of the community who may have retired but wish to lead active lives and follows the philosophy of "friendship, fellowship and fun". The publication Active Retirees is a regular magazine distributed to members, covering club news, health, travel, finance and technology. In addition to an advertising campaign and news article in this magazine, the campaign was extended to the E-newsletter and website through a mutually beneficial partnership with Probus.

Starts at 60 is an online community designed for seniors and people aged 60 years and over. It covers a wide variety of material including news and current affairs, health, travel, finance and hobbies, presenting feature articles, as well as educational pieces and discussion forums. In addition to their website, Starts at 60 has a strong social media presence with over 320 000 Facebook likes.

Social media was used to further increase the reach of our messaging, with the campaign artwork also used on Facebook and Twitter. All posts targeted older Australians and included links to further information, including "The Talk" video and the relevant section of the Royal Life Saving website.

In addition to the metrics from Starts at 60 for their Facebook posts, information was also be gained from the content of comments posted.

This is a selection of comments from social media:

- "I can dip myself in the open water without waves or I'll be washed out for sure with the waves. I'm not strong enough because of my knee replacements".
- "I have noticed my swimming strength has deteriorated and am very cautious in the surf".
- "The mind says I can do it, the body says maybe, the fitness level says no way but we try it anyway".
- "Because they are not careful enough and think they are better than they are".

Future work in this area will build on this campaign, including the resources developed, partnerships established and results received.



AQUATIC RISK MANAGEMENT



AQUATIC RISK MANAGEMENT

Developing safety guidelines and risk management systems for all aquatic environments is essential for supporting water-safe communities.

Royal Life Saving works to improve industry safety and risk management standards through key activities including:

- Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations
- Guidelines for Water Safety
- Aquatic Facility Safety and Inland Water Safety Risk Assessments
- Lifeguarding training systems
- Management consultancy

Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations

Over the past twelve months the Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations have undergone one of its most significant reviews since its inception in 1999. In the second half of 2016, the Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations (GSPO) will begin to represent a fundamental shift in thinking and undergo one of its most significant changes since its inception. This will be done in an attempt to drive a more industry led and risk management approach to safety in aquatic facilities.

Most notably this will begin with the release of the new Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations but will also incorporate a concentrated effort to increase collaboration, share lessons learnt and provide support to Governments, Businesses and Aquatic Facilities and their staff in implementing the changes.

Led by the establishment of a National Aquatic Industry Safety Committee (NAISC) with broad representation from across the Aquatic Industry, the GSPO will see a new look, feel and approach that will gradually be implemented over the next 2-3 years.

Over the past twelve months the NAISC has met a number of times to extensively analyse stakeholder feedback, current research and emerging trends in the Industry to help develop the next version of the GSPO.

At its first meeting of 2016, the National Aquatic Industry Safety Committee endorsed the decision to proceed with a new framework for the management of the Guidelines.

The new framework will eventually phase out the following individual guideline documents and merge them into a revamped Guideline for Safe Pool Operations.

The existing guidelines which will be phased out are:

- Guidelines for Hotels, Motels, Camping and Caravan Parks
- Guidelines for Body Corporate Pools
- Guidelines for Commercial Learn to Swim and School Pools

The new Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations will be introduced progressively. The following chapters of the Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations have been identified for re-development thus far:

- Aquatic Risk Management
- Emergency Management
- Aquatic Facilities
- Aquatic Amusement Devices
- Aquatic Safety Signage
- Aquatic Supervision
- Aquatic Safety Equipment

267

AQUATIC FACILITY SAFETY ASSESSMENTS WERE UNDERTAKEN DURING 2015/16

Aquatic Industry Safety Hub

In September 2016 RLSSA will launch a new National Aquatic Industry Safety Hub. The Aquatic Industry Safety Hub is designed to become a one-stop-shop of safety information and resources for Owners and Operators of Swimming Pools and Aquatic Facilities across Australia and will house the new GSPO.

Stage 1 of the Aquatic Industry Safety Hub will be finalised by September 1 2016 with Stage 2 anticipated to be released in 2017.

A key summary of the Hub Contents includes:

- News and Events section which will provide weekly updates on Industry Information and GSPO Changes
- A resource library full of Legislation, regulations and guidelines from across industry
- A database of Coronial inquests relating to drownings
- Online Document viewers adaptable for all forms of technology such as Tablets and mobile Phones

Visit www.guidelines.royallifesaving.com.au for further information



Australian Lifeguard Network

The Australian Lifeguard Network (ALN) is a community of Pool Lifeguards and aquatic professionals. The aim of the Australian Lifeguard Network is to benefit members by:

- Supporting lifeguarding as a genuine career opportunity
- Raising the standard of lifeguarding in Australia by supporting training and professional development
- Providing opportunities for the aquatics industry, and lifeguards in particular, to come together and share ideas and experiences
- Providing better access to industry leaders and experts
- Improving the level of safety in our aquatic facilities by ensuring staff are highly trained and well-equipped to deal with the challenges they face every day, and
- Engaging in conversations with industry about what they want and need from the network.

As the ALN grows we hope that lifeguards will contribute to the repository of information available by sharing resources and learning materials with the Network.

The ALN has been developed by Royal Life Saving however, the ideas shared through the network are those of Pool Lifeguards and aquatics professionals working throughout Australia.

For more information on the Australian Lifeguard Network and the Lifeguard Challenge please visit:
www.australianlifeguardnetwork.com.au
www.facebook.com/AusLifeguards
www.twitter.com/AusLifeguards

Lifeguard Challenge Series

Challenges test competitors' skills across a variety of lifesaving events, focusing on rescue and emergency care.

Lifeguard Challenges were held across Australia in 2015/16 including in the ACT and VIC.

ACT

2016 marked the biggest lifeguard challenge yet! The event was held for the 5th successful year on Friday 12 February at the Australian Institute of Sport. A total of 48 competitors in 12 teams took part in the competition.

A big thank you to our 21 volunteers who help the event run smoothly.

The teams took part in a series of events including; Line Throw, SERC, 50m Manikin Carry, 50m Obstacle swim, 200m Obstacle relay, 200m Medley relay, 100m Manikin Carry relay.

Winning Team:

"Young Guns", Gungahlin Leisure Centre

Highest individual male point scorer:

Jack Matthews, Dickson Aquatic Centre

Highest individual female point scorer:

Olivia Columb, Dickson Aquatic Centre



VIC

The Geelong Leisurelink team has been named Life Saving Victoria's 'Pool Lifeguard' champions in an energetic challenge of lifeguarding skill and teamwork at North Melbourne Recreation Centre.

Held on Tuesday 22nd March, the annual LSV challenge saw 18 teams, representing 30 aquatic facilities, put their rescue and response skills to the test in the competition, which aimed to challenge the lifeguards' abilities in a practical, safe and fun environment.

Teams responded to a series of simulated scenarios, including dislocated shoulders, spinal incidents, CPR, head injuries, argumentative parents and seizures. The scenarios were designed to not only test the technical skills of the individual team members, but also their overall teamwork, communication and incident response capabilities.

Event manager Andy Dennis said that the intention was for the competitors to expect the unexpected, explaining "scenarios that competing lifeguards were faced with were difficult but realistic; they could easily occur at their own aquatic facilities.

"We also introduced a variety of twists and complications throughout the different scenarios, in addition to the initial incident."



Watch the 'Get Involved' and the 'Lifeguard Challenge Series' videos at:
youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Royal Life Saving actively implements a community development model that focuses on:

- Community engagement and communication
- Community participation and program development
- Training, employment and leadership development
- Sound project management and evaluation methodologies

Community projects aim to build local opportunities for local people and target a range of health, social and economic issues. These issues have included:

- Populations at risk of drowning
- Use of aquatic facilities
- High levels of chronic disease
- Youth diversion
- Employment and training pathways

We are active in a range of communities including:

- Indigenous communities
- Rural and remote communities
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities (CALD)
- Refugee communities
- Second and third generation arrivals.

Indigenous Programs

Our research shows that Aboriginal Australians are four times more likely to die from drowning than other Australians.

To reduce this high incidence rate of drowning among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) people, programs have been created and delivered across Australia by Royal Life Saving State and Territory Member Organisations.

Programs include specialised aquatic training to members of ATSI communities while encouraging them to participate in aquatics and to consider the aquatics industry as a profession.

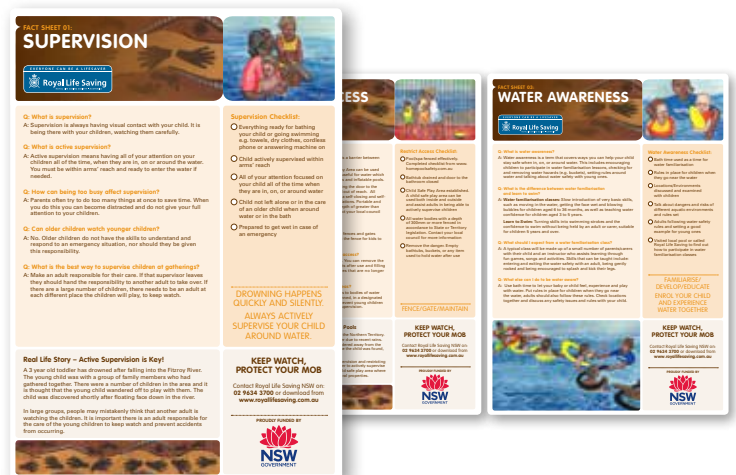
The following represents some recent and ongoing programs across Australia.

- Australian Capital Territory - Ngadyung Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aquatic Recreation Program
- New South Wales - Indigenous Aquatic Safety Training Unit
- Northern Territory - Remote Pools Project
- Western Australia – Remote Aboriginal Swimming Pools

To support Indigenous communities and organisations to promote water safety education and drowning prevention strategies, Royal Life Saving with the support of the New South Wales Government, developed 7 fact sheets:

1. Supervision
2. Restrict Access
3. Water Awareness
4. Resuscitate
5. Bath Time Safety
6. Home Water Safety
7. Water Safety in Rural and Remote Areas

These fact sheets feature illustrations by Indigenous artist Fern Martins, Inheritance Art Design and feature real stories to highlight the key issues.



Case Study: Remote Aboriginal Swimming Pools - WA

The Remote Aboriginal Swimming Pool program in Western Australia is designed to increase Aboriginal participation in aquatic activities in remote locations, while achieving improvements in the areas of health, education and employment.

There are six pools within the program, each location within a remote area. To ensure the needs of the local community are met, community consultation and engagement is ongoing, with targeted programs implemented at each pool.

Aaron Jacobs - Remote Aboriginal Swimming Pool Manager, Fitzroy Crossing

Aaron Jacobs and his family have been involved in our Remote Aboriginal Swimming Pool project for the past seven years. Aaron says the journey began after a friend took up a position as a remote pool manager. "It sounded really interesting and a good opportunity to give something positive back to the community. So I completed my training and then a position came up in Jigalong."

After four years he was offered a position at the Fitzroy Crossing pool and his family made the move to this much bigger town. Aaron was innovative, tackling some youth issues by opening up the pool for midnight swimming.

"There were a lot of adolescents engaging in anti-social behaviour. So on the weekends I started doing sessions from midnight to about 3am and it brought a lot of teenagers down to the pool. It was just a good environment to be in, with someone there to supervise and act as a good mentor."

For Aaron there have been many highlights, with the Swim for Fruit program standing out the most.

"Swim for Fruit started off in Jigalong and as soon as some of the kids started getting involved and winning prizes it drew a lot of people in. It became a real competition and eventually I couldn't keep up with it; I had to get my wife Waiane to supervise and count the laps because so many children wanted to participate."

Aaron's hope is that the Remote Aboriginal Swimming Pool program continues to expand "Kids who have access to the water can swim from an early age, but for those who don't, there are floods out there and there's a danger of drowning. Water education and swimming lessons are vital to help prevent that."



SWIM AND SURVIVE FUND

The Royal Life Saving Swim and Survive Fund provides opportunities for children experiencing social or economic disadvantage to access structured water safety education by reducing barriers to participation.

Royal Life Saving research shows that those most likely to miss out include children from Indigenous, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse and low socio-economic backgrounds and children from refugee or migrant communities. A number of cultural, social and economic barriers reduce participation including the cost of enrolment, transport, access to safe aquatic facilities and qualified instructors.

In restricting children's access, these barriers foster a skill deficit that augments independence, peer pressure, risk-taking behaviour and access to inland waterways, increasing the likelihood of drowning.

To address these issues, Royal Life Saving established the Swim and Survive Fund in 2010. The Swim and Survive Fund utilises a Collaborative Partnership Model which empowers corporate supporters, water safety partners, charitable organisations and schools to play an active role in reducing drowning in their community.



7,942

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE RECEIVED A COURSE OF WATER SAFETY LESSONS AT A ROYAL LIFE SAVING PARTNER FACILITY, FREE OF CHARGE, SINCE INCEPTION.

The Grants Initiative

The Swim and Survive Fund Grants Initiative supports Royal Life Saving State and Territory Member Organisations (STMOs) to facilitate structured water safety education programs in their community.

In 2015/16, a total of 286 children aged 5 to 18 years learnt valuable life-skills and knowledge by participating in structured programs supported by this Initiative.

These programs featured in local print and broadcast media, highlighting the commitment of Royal Life Saving in addressing Goal 1: Reducing Drowning Deaths in Children Aged 0-14 and Goal 10: Reduce Drowning Deaths in High Risk Populations of the Australian Water Safety Strategy 2016-2020.



Program in Focus: Mercy Community Services (Romero Centre)

Young refugees from different countries participated in a Swim and Survive Fund program to learn swimming and water safety skills. Participants originally from Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Pakistan, Rwanda and Sri Lanka attended a 5-day program teaching the foundation skills of swimming, survival and water safety.

There were 45 participants aged from 4 years to 22 years; many who had never swam in the water previously. After five 1 hour lessons, participants made exceptional improvement in their skills.

The program was conducted by Royal Life Saving Queensland and the Plantation Swim School, in partnership with the Mercy Community Services Romano Centre where the children and teenagers attend the drop-in centre that offers help for refugees.

Program in Focus: Mirrabooka Swim and Survive Fund Program

Mirrabooka Senior High School, Dianella, Western Australia

Drowning remains one of the leading causes of preventable death in children and reducing childhood drowning remains a worldwide challenge. Recent data from Royal Life Saving Society Western Australia shows 18 children aged 5-14 years drowned over the past 10 years. Over the same period there has been a 30% increase in the number of non-fatal drowning with 85 children hospitalised. Twenty-two percent (22%) of these children were from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds.

Across all age groups there were 128 drowning deaths involving people born overseas between July 2003 and June 2013. This represents 39% of all drowning deaths in that period. Of these 47% were from a non-English speaking country.

Royal Life Saving Society WA CEO Peter Leaversuch said, "We are committed to teaching every child to Swim and Survive. The challenge we face is to ensure each new generation acquires these skills, and no-one misses out, no matter who they are or where they live."

From February to April 2016, Royal Life Saving WA conducted a nine week Swim and Survive Access and Equity program supported by Principal Community Partner BHP Billiton, the Department of Sport & Recreation and the Office of Multicultural Interests and conducted in partnership with the Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre, Mirrabooka Senior High School and local primary and high schools.

A total of 104 participants from 17 different cultural backgrounds participated including Burmese (Karen), Sudanese, Vietnamese, Thai, Italian, Afghan, Chinese, Persian, Macedonian, Iranian, Somalian, Syrian, Ethiopian, Djibouti, Zimbabwean and Indian.

On the final day of lessons, the program culminated in a community celebration where participants were provided with the opportunity to showcase their newly acquired water safety skills. The day was well supported by the community and featured on Channel 7, 9 and 10 news bulletins. The family event coincided with Harmony Week; an annual event that celebrates cultural, religious, linguistic and ethnic diversity.





RESEARCH

Royal Life Saving programs, products and services are underpinned by research and a commitment to continual improvement. They are constantly evaluated, improved and benchmarked against world's best practice.

Our research capacity includes:

- Drowning and injury related research
- Maintenance of the Royal Life Saving National Fatal Drowning Database
- Program effectiveness and evaluation
- Management of internal research activities
- Partnering in research projects both domestically and internationally

A comprehensive facts and figures searchable database is available on the Royal Life Saving website.

The database allows for users to easily access Royal Life Saving research reports, which includes:

- National Drowning Reports
- Survey Reports
- Drowning Data Reports
- Evaluation Reports
- Research and Policy Summaries
- Water Safety Issues Research
- Australian Water Safety Strategies
- Australian Water Safety Council Conference Proceedings



Reports can be downloaded from www.royallifesaving.com.au

Research Publications and Partnerships

Many research reports were completed during 2015/16, including the Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report 2016. The production of this report is made possible by the National Coroners Information System (NCIS) and State and Territory Coronial Offices. The drowning prevention research of the Royal Life Saving Society – Australia is supported by the Australian Government.

Royal Life Saving National Fatal Drowning Database

The Royal Life Saving National Fatal Drowning Database continues to be a valuable resource for drowning prevention research and advocacy efforts. The database now features detailed variables on the circumstances of over 4000 drowning deaths that have occurred in Australian waterways since 1 July 2002. Over the past 12 months the Database has been used to provide advice to Coroners, media outlets, Federal, State and Local Governments, by institutions and in the formulation of the Australian Water Safety Strategy 2016-2020.

Young Men and Drowning: An Analysis of Drowning Deaths Among Men Aged 25-34 Years

This report found that 355 men aged 25-34 years drowned between 1 July 2005 and 30 June 2015. This represents 12.5% of all drowning deaths that occurred in Australia during this time period. The key findings from this report include:

- Rivers, creeks and streams were the leading location for drowning, accounting for 28.5% of deaths
- The most common activity being undertaken prior to drowning was swimming and recreating (32.7%)
- Over a third of all drowning deaths were known to involve alcohol (36.1%)
- Drowning deaths involving alcohol were significantly more likely to occur at rivers, creeks and streams and significantly less likely to occur at beaches
- Drowning deaths involving alcohol were significantly more likely to occur following an incident related to non-aquatic transport or boating and significantly less likely to occur while rock fishing
- Drowning deaths among Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people were significantly more likely to involve alcohol than non-Indigenous people
- Alcohol was significantly more likely to be involved in deaths occurring in the early morning and evening and significantly less likely to be involved in fatalities during the morning and afternoon
- Of those drowning deaths which were known to involve alcohol, the amount of alcohol detected was deemed contributory in 60.2% of cases (BAC greater than or equal to 0.05)
- Of the 25.6% of cases which were known to involve drugs, 40.7% were legal drugs, 38.5% were illegal substances and 20.9% of cases involved both legal and illegal drugs
- Among men who were boating, only 2.0% were wearing a compliant lifejacket and only 3.4% of rock fishers were wearing a lifejacket
- Over a third of drowning incidents occurred in major cities (34.9%), with the majority of people who drowned not visitors to the location of the incident (61.4%)
- In 15.5% of cases, more than one person drowned during the incident, resulting in a multiple fatality event
- Multiple fatality events were significantly more likely to occur following a non-aquatic transport or boating incident and significantly less likely to occur while swimming and recreating

The Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report serves as an important reminder to all Australians of the risks associated with exposure to our beautiful waterways, rivers, beaches, and community and backyard swimming pools.

The Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report 2016 found that 280 people drowned in Australian waterways in the 2015/16 financial year. This figure represents a 5% increase on the 267 drowning deaths recorded last year, with males drowning at a far higher rate than females.

The Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report 2016 was officially launched by the Hon. Sussan Ley MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care, Minister for Sport at Parliament House in Canberra.

The 2016 Report shows males accounted for 83% of drowning deaths in 2015/16. This is the highest percentage of male drowning deaths in the past 10 years. Almost one fifth of deaths (19%) occurred in people aged 25-34 years, with 52 deaths recorded. This was higher than any other age group and a 27% increase against the 10 year average.

Inland waterways continue to be a leading location for drowning, with more than a quarter of all drowning deaths occurring at rivers, creeks, lakes and dams. There were 75 deaths at inland waterways this year, including 58 at rivers and creeks, and 17 at lakes and dams.

There was a 25% decrease in drowning deaths at rivers, with the 58 drowning deaths recorded in 2015/16 a reduction on the 10 year average of 77 drowning deaths.

Royal Life Saving Society – Australia CEO, Justin Scarr says “The Royal Life Saving Respect the River program has been well received in communities around Australia, with initiatives along many rivers including the Murray, the Swan, and the Katherine River”.

There was a 30% decrease in the number of children aged 0-4 years who drowned this year when compared to the 10 year average, with 21 deaths recorded. Children under five are at the highest risk of drowning, making this age group a high priority for drowning prevention initiatives.

Justin Scarr says “Each drowning death is a personal story, impacting on families, rescuers and communities. Royal Life Saving is committed to reducing the number of drowning deaths in Australia and will continue to work with our partners to achieve this goal”.

This year, beaches were the leading location for drowning, accounting for 23% of deaths, followed by rivers and creeks (21%) and ocean / harbour locations (19%). Royal Life Saving notes the decrease in the number of people drowning at rivers, creeks, lakes and dams is encouraging.

Although rivers and other inland waterways often look calm from the surface, there may be submerged obstacles which are not visible and conditions can change rapidly.

Eleven children aged 5-14 years drowned this year. Although this was a decrease against the 10 year average, these tragic events reinforce the importance of all children learning swimming and water safety skills. Royal Life Saving continues to urge parents to ensure that their children participate in programs such as Swim and Survive, to build vital water safety skills to prevent drowning and promote lifelong safe aquatic activity.

One quarter (25%) of all people who drowned were known to have a pre-existing medical condition, most commonly cardiovascular disease. Being aware of medical conditions is important, as they can impact on fitness and ability in the water. Royal Life Saving recommends that people aged 55 years and over undergo regular medical check-ups, allowing early detection of chronic disease, as well as appropriate monitoring and treatment.

Alcohol consumption was also a risk factor for drowning, with 15% of people found to have a positive reading for alcohol in their bloodstream at the time of drowning. Royal Life Saving highlights alcohol can impair judgment and coordination, slow reaction times and increase risk taking behaviour. Of those who had consumed alcohol, 40% recorded a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) that was four times the legal limit (0.2mg/L) or higher.

This year, 25 overseas tourists drowned. Almost half (44%) of these visitors were from Asian countries, with most incidents occurring away from patrolled areas on beaches, in resort swimming pools and rivers, whilst swimming or diving. Royal Life Saving advises tour operators and international student education services to ensure that they factor in water safety when planning tourist activities anywhere near the water.

Drowning occurred all year round but peaked in January during warmer weather. More deaths were recorded on Sundays than any other day of the week, with almost half (45%) of all drowning deaths occurring in the afternoon between midday and 6pm.

The 2016 Report is the 22nd National Drowning Report to be released by Royal Life Saving Society - Australia.



Watch the 'RLS National Drowning Report 2016' video at [youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust](https://www.youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust)

SNAPSHOT OF FINDINGS

OVERALL

280 PEOPLE DROWNED IN AUSTRALIAN WATERWAYS
BETWEEN 1 JULY 2015 AND 30 JUNE 2016

THIS YEAR'S FIGURE OF 280 DROWNING DEATHS IS AN **INCREASE OF 13 DROWNING DEATHS (OR 5%)** ON THE 267 DROWNING DEATHS RECORDED IN 2014/15

THIS IS A **REDUCTION OF 2 DEATHS** ON THE 10 YEAR AVERAGE OF 282 DROWNING DEATHS

SEX AND AGE GROUP

- ▲ **231 (83%)** drowning deaths were male
- ▼ **49 (17%)** drowning deaths were female
- ▼ **21 (8%)** drowning deaths occurred in children aged 0-4 years
- ▼ **11 (4%)** drowning deaths occurred in children aged 5-14 years
- ▲ **52 (19%)** drowning deaths occurred in people aged 25-34 years
- ▲ **58 (21%)** drowning deaths occurred in people aged 65 years and over

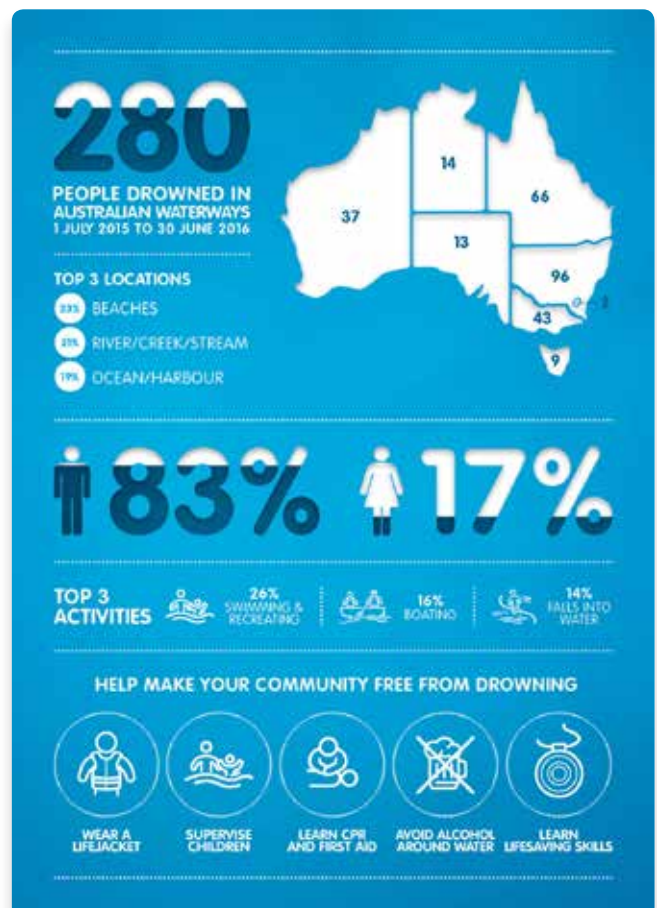
STATE AND TERRITORY

- ▼ **96 (34%)** drowning deaths occurred in New South Wales
- ▼ **66 (24%)** drowning deaths occurred in Queensland
- ▲ **43 (15%)** drowning deaths occurred in Victoria
- ▲ **37 (13%)** drowning deaths occurred in Western Australia

LOCATION AND ACTIVITY

- ▲ **63 (23%)** drowning deaths occurred at beaches
- ▼ **58 (21%)** drowning deaths occurred at rivers, creeks and streams
- ▲ **53 (19%)** drowning deaths occurred in ocean / harbour locations
- ▲ **74 (26%)** were swimming and recreating immediately prior to drowning
- ▲ **46 (16%)** were boating immediately prior to drowning
- ▼ **39 (14%)** drowned as a result of falls into water
- ▲ **Means an increase on the 10 year average**
- ▼ **Means a decrease on the 10 year average**

The full report can be downloaded from www.royallifesaving.com.au



Royal Life Saving conducts research on a number of areas related to drowning prevention, including different age groups, locations, activities and risk factors. Such research allows the development of evidence-based prevention strategies, ensuring initiatives and programs target high-risk populations, locations and activities.

Research findings are communicated to the public in a number of ways, including traditional media, social media and our website. The recently developed 'Research and Policy Summaries' provide a snapshot of the research within an area, providing a concise summary of more detailed research which has been conducted.

At present, three 'Research and Policy Summaries' have been completed, each representing a goal of the Australian Water Safety Strategy 2016-2020:

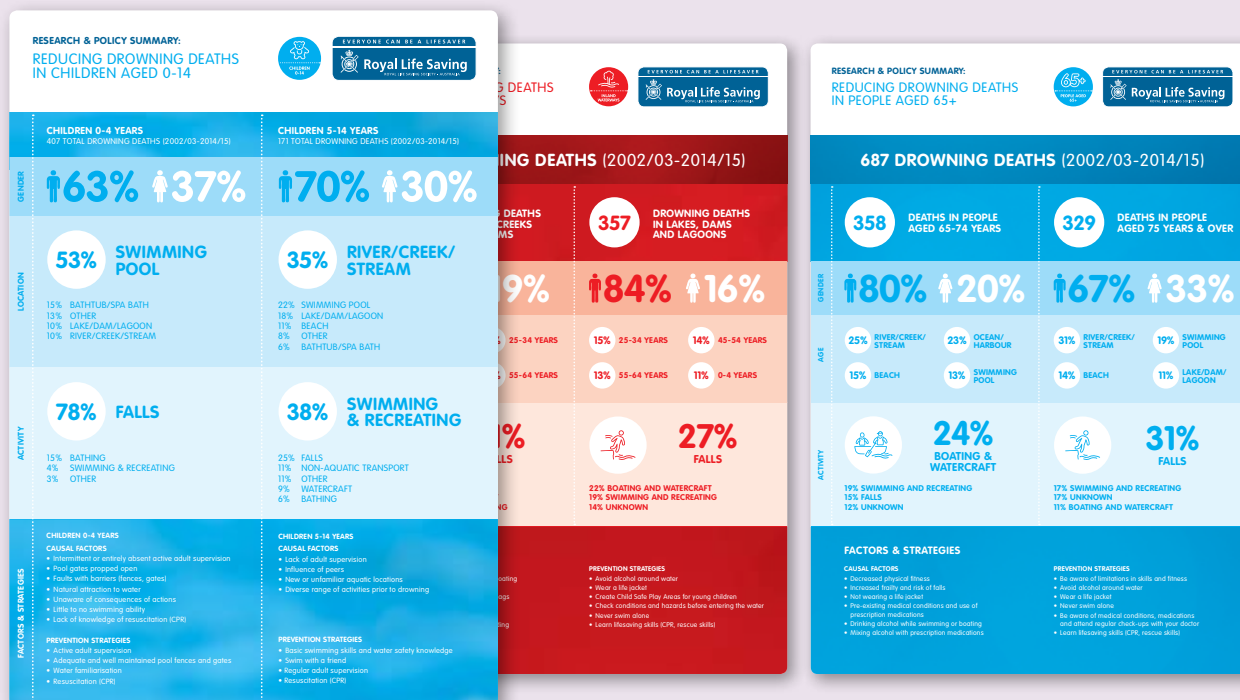
- Reducing drowning deaths in children aged 0-14 years
- Reducing drowning deaths in inland waterways
- Reducing drowning deaths in people aged 65+

These research snapshots contain background to the issue, drowning data, recommendations for the future and case studies to highlight relevant programs. For example, 'Reducing drowning deaths in people aged 65+' introduces the issue, discusses overall drowning statistics in this age group, poses recommendations for future work in the area and features case studies on 'The Talk' and 'Grey Medallion'.

Each summary begins with an infographic, which details the key drowning trends, causal factors and prevention strategies. For example, 'Reducing drowning deaths in children aged 0-14 years', compares the locations and activities prior to drowning in children aged 0-4 years and 5-14 years. Specific causal factors and prevention strategies for each age subgroup are also detailed, allowing the similarities and differences to be observed.

Royal Life Saving Research and Policy Summaries

To download visit royallifesaving.com.au/facts-and-figures





MEDIA AND MARKETING

Royal Life Saving media and marketing campaigns support our advocacy activities – promoting safe aquatic activity and supporting drowning prevention.

The Royal Life Saving website serves our four key customer groups - those seeking first aid or lifesaving training, families, schools, and the aquatic industry - allowing quick and easy navigation and immediate access to relevant information. Key features of the website include:

- Integration with our social media platforms - Facebook, Twitter and Youtube
- Searchable facts and figures database
- Simple booking function for seeking training courses

The Royal Life Saving website is driven by clear outcomes: Advocacy (public awareness/information - page views/downloads); Promotion / engagement (program registration); Relationship-building (partnerships-aquatic centres and supporters); and Financial return (training course enrolments /product sales).

Website statistics are analysed including heat mapping to maximise the effectiveness of all websites to ensure we deliver information in the easiest and most responsive way for our customer's needs.

Website Visits

Website visitation was consistently high during October, November and the start of December 2015 and February and March 2016.

The highest visitation spikes coincided with key media campaigns / activity including the National Drowning Report Launch on Tuesday September 15 (1,840 visits/sessions), Respect the River Launch (October 15) and the release of the Summer Drowning Toll (January 2016).

Website Page Views

The most visited areas of the Royal Life Saving websites has been Training, followed by Swim and Survive and the Royal Life Saving Home Page. The 10 most visited areas of the website have been summarised below by the number of page views.

1. Training (371,197)
2. Swim and Survive (287,424)
3. Royal Life Saving Home Page (114,534)
4. Schools – Including E-Learning (83,895)
5. Aquatic Centres (74,609)
6. Facts and Figures (53,841)
7. Contact Us (38,701)
8. Families (38,201)
9. About (37,687)
10. Programs – Keep Watch and Home Pool Safety (23,313)



Website Statistics

Royal Life Saving has a number of websites, with statistics summarised below:

	2014 / 2015		2015 / 2016		
	Royal Life Saving Society - Australia	Royal Life Saving Society - Australia	Swim and Survive	Australian Lifeguard Network	GSPO
Visits/Sessions	361,831	393,233	73,783	1,713	6,025
Page views	931,420	992,728	287,424	4,730	20,042
Average page views per visit	2.57	2.52	3.90	2.76	3.33
Average time spent per visit	2:25	2:23	3:07	2:06	2:43
Visitors	246,790 69% New 31% Return	280,994 69% New 31% Return	56,913 76% New 24% Return	1,464 85% New 15% Return	4,208 67% New 33% Return
Device Category	D = 236,633 (65%) M = 81,231 (23%) T = 43,967 (12%)	D = 245,270 (62%) M = 105,847 (27%) T = 42,116 (11%)	D = 51,037 M = 13,795 T = 8,951	D = 1,152 M = 416 T = 145	D = 5,269 M = 520 T = 236

D = Desktop, M = Mobile, T = Tablet.

Social Media

Royal Life Saving is active across social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, Youtube and Instagram. Social media allows Royal Life Saving to engage and seek feedback from our customers in a timely, informative and relevant medium. Social media facilitates supporters sharing what's happening with Royal Life Saving in addition to sharing our important drowning prevention messages.

Facebook

Key statistics for Royal Life Saving Society – Australia Facebook page from 1 July 2015 - 30 June 2016:

Total likes:	5,641
Total number of posts:	327
Total reach:	1,036,510
Total impressions:	1,815,649

Reach: The number of people who have seen any content associated with our Page. (Unique Users)

Impressions: The number of impressions seen of any content associated with our Page. (Total Count)

Top Facebook Posts

Organic

Total reach:	32,805
Total impressions:	63,884
Total engaged users:	2,623



Paid

Total reach:	44,952
Paid reach:	31,914
Organic reach:	13,038
Total impressions:	66,409
Paid impressions:	41,706
Organic impressions:	24,703



Twitter

Key statistics for Royal Life Saving Society – Australia Twitter page from 1 July 2015 - 30 June 2016:

Total number of posts:	413
Total engagement:	5,434
Total impressions:	321,652

Youtube

Key statistics for Royal Life Saving Society – Australia Youtube channel from 1 July 2015 - 30 June 2016:

Total views:	76,656
Minutes watched:	85,419
Average view duration:	1:04
Gender:	Male 71% Female 29%

Top 3 videos:

1. For Life's Sake – The Dangers of Driving Through Floodwater
2. Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report 2015
3. Australian Water Safety Council – Australian Water Safety Strategy 2016-2020

Royal Life Saving – Social Media Profiles

Royal Life Saving

- facebook.com/RoyallifeSaving
- twitter.com/royallifesaving
- youtube.com/RoyallifeSavingAust
- @RoyallifeSaving

Australian Lifeguard Network

- facebook.com/AusLifeguards
- twitter.com/AusLifeguards

Swim and Survive

- facebook.com/swimandsurvive

PRINT AND BROADCAST MEDIA

Royal Life Saving monitors media impact, tracks broadcast and print media items to identify key media activity.

Total media items tracked:	7,000
Broadcast:	5,501 (79%)
Print:	1,499 (21%)

Respect the River Snapshot

Royal Life Saving Society – Australia, with the support of the Federal Government, is implementing the Respect the River campaign. The Respect the River campaign was launched by the Hon. Sussan Ley MP Minister for Sport and Minister for Health and Royal Life Saving Chief Executive Officer Justin Scarr on Sunday 25th October on the banks of the Murray River at Albury.

As part of the Respect the River campaign Royal Life Saving released a series of community service announcements on TV, radio, print and online to alert people of the dangers that rivers pose, and also advising on how to enjoy them safely. These are supported by a range of fact sheets, educational activities and a series of video testimonials from local safety personnel and river users.

TOTAL MEDIA COVERAGE (25/10/15 - 13/11/15)

303

PRINT AND BROADCAST ARTICLES

4,418,615

AUDIENCE/CIRCULATION

\$597,146

ADVERTISING SPACE RATE



Social Media Activity

Youtube

2,172 views

1,002 watch time



Watch the 'Respect The River' videos at youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust

Top Facebook Posts 25/10/15 - 31/1/16



Increase in drownings this summer prompts Australia Day warning

The number of drownings is up this summer compared to last, with 59 people having died in Australian waterways since December.

ABC.NET.AU



Respect the River - Royal Life Saving

Our rivers are beautiful but more people drown here than anywhere else. Its Simple, Respect the River

ROYALLIFESAVING.COM.AU

Launch of the Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report 2016 Parliament House, Canberra

The 2016 Report, the 22nd National Drowning Report to be released by Royal Life Saving, was officially launched by the Hon. Sussan Ley MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care, Minister for Sport at Parliament House in Canberra.

The 2016 Report found that 280 people drowned in Australian waterways in the 2015/16 financial year. This figure represents a 5% increase on the 267 drowning deaths recorded last year, with males drowning at a far higher rate than females.

“Each drowning death is a personal story, impacting on families, rescuers and communities. Royal Life Saving is committed to reducing the number of drowning deaths in Australia and will continue to work with our partners to achieve this goal”
Justin Scarr, CEO, Royal Life Saving.

Over 40 Senators and Members of Parliament (MPs) attended the launch, showing their support by taking part in a Royal Life Saving media/photo opportunity and by sharing Royal Life Saving’s Drowning Prevention messages for Keep Watch, Respect the River and Swim and Survive with their electorate.

The launch was attended by colleagues and drowning prevention partners including Australian Water Safety Council Members; ACT Safe Waters Committee Members; Royal Life Saving Members and Executive.

For further details regarding the Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report refer to page 44.



Watch the 'RLS National Drowning Report 2016' video at [youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust](https://www.youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust)



SPORT, LEADERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

No matter what your age or how well you swim, there's plenty for everyone to enjoy and learn with Pool Lifesaving Sport. And for those wanting to take it to the next level; Royal Life Saving has an established Lifesaving Sport participation pathway to take lifesavers from entry level to elite.

Lifesavers can compete at:

- Club and School Competitions
- Regional Competitions
- Junior Provincial/State Competitions
- Senior Provincial/State Competitions
- National Competitions
- International Competitions

The sport of pool lifesaving tests a lifesaver's skills in rescue, accident prevention and emergency care. By using variations of simulated emergencies, lifesavers compete using the same skills they require for real-life situations.



Pool Lifesaving Events

Aussie & Silver Barras Training Camp & Australian Lifesaving Team Time Trial

Runaway Bay Super Sports Centre & Gold Coast Aquatic Centre - May 2016

The Gold Coast was the location for the 2016 Training Camp for the Aussie Barras and Silver Barras, coinciding with the Australian Lifesaving Team (ALT) time trial event. Conducting the camp at the same time as the ALT time trial allowed the Barras squad to compete against the best pool lifesaving competitors in the country, and gave quality competition to those athletes vying for places on the World Championship team.

Athletes were put through their paces competing in multiple events on Saturday, then a reverse order on Sunday to simulate a heavy multi-event, multi-day competition load.

During the day, lactic acid readings were taken, as well as vertical leaps to gauge the reduction in explosive power throughout a day of competing. This carries on from the data and analysis collected from the previous year and was a valuable insight into the stresses athletes have to deal with while competing in a multi-event format.

Dryland sessions included information on the use and effectiveness of supplements, and sports psychology in training. Thanks to Dr Clare Minahan and her team from Griffith University.



Australian Masters Games 2015

SA Aquatic & Leisure Centre, South Australia - October 2015

The 2015 Australian Masters Games were back in Adelaide, after heading to Geelong in 2013. The SA Aquatic & Leisure Centre played host to almost 30 masters athletes for a day of quality competition which saw 12 national records broken.

Congratulations to all those who competed, and the officials who made the meet such a success.

Pool Lifesaving Events

Australian Pool Life Saving Championships 2016 Gold Coast, Queensland - January 2016

The Australian Pool Life Saving Championships 2016 were held at the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre in January 2016. Congratulations to Queensland who took out the Interstate Overall Championship, breaking the stranglehold NSW has had for over a decade. It was a clean sweep by QLD taking out the U16s, U19s, Opens, Overall Mens, Overall Womens and the CPR competition.

Congratulations to the 195 competitors from Interstate teams and clubs and the individual competitors making it one of the largest Championships ever. Congratulations to Samantha Howe and Jenny Whiteley who both broke World Records.

Without the assistance of the countless volunteers (including accredited RLSSA officials and parents) the APLSC would not be able to run successfully and RLSSA would like to extend a huge thank you to all those who volunteer their time to assist with our events!

"The brilliance of our next generation of lifesavers was on show culminating with Bradley Woodward and Samantha Howe announced respectively as Male Lifesaver and Female Lifesaver of the Meet. I wandered the pool deck over a few days and was impressed by the unofficial mentoring between older members of State and Territory teams to new competitors.

There is always camaraderie, positive support and encouragement, with members giving up their time and expertise to volunteer as officials and judges at these championships as well as other pool life saving events."
Pene Snashall President, Royal Life Saving



Key Officials at the event were:

Chief Referee - Roz Grey; SERC Coordinator – Pam Stanley; and CPR Coordinator – Vaughan Jones.

Jim Morgan was recognised as Official of the Meet being awarded the Bruce Campbell Trophy in appreciation of their outstanding contribution.

At the conclusion of the Championships Australia's three national teams were selected: The open "Aussie Barras"; the "Silver Barras" (development team of under 19 year olds), and the "Junior Barras" (development team of under 16 year olds).



**AUSSIE
BARRAS**
ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY - AUSTRALIA

Aussie Barra's
Sam Bell
Keelan Bridge
Prue Davies
Lisa Ferguson
Ela Heiniger
Samantha Howe
Mariah Jones
Nadine Jones
Rachelle King
Rosie Lennox
Chris Petropoulos
Liam Ryan
Tim Schofield
Bradley Woodward

Coach – James Evans
Manager – Jeannie Baxter-Reid

Silver Barra's
Prue Davies
Rachel Eddy
Ethan Garland
Samantha Howe
Luke Lineham
Callum Lowe-Griffiths
James Petropoulos

Coach – Stephanie Ballantine
Manager – Maxwell Gonzalez

Junior Barra's
Keeley Booth
Jackson Chapman
Jake Evans
Madison Howe
Christopher King
Kurt Lorme
Anthea Warne
Harmarna Williams

Coach – Blake McCrindle
Manager – Cherry Bailey

Australian Life Saving Team

Royal Life Saving Society – Australia (RLSSA) and Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) with support from the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) coordinate the Australian Life Saving Team, Australia's representative team at the biennial World Lifesaving Championships in the National Teams Competition. At the World Championships Australia is represented by an Open and Youth (Under 19) Representative Team.

RLSSA plays 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 - Anni Gardiner
Collaborative Panel Member - Penny Hodgers
Administration Team Support - Ben Cuttriss

World Championships Lifesaving 2016 Eindhoven and Noordwijk, The Netherlands

The Australian Life Saving Team will contest 41 events at the championships over both ocean and pool events. New Zealand is the defending world champion having won the overall title in 2012 and 2014.

The selection process follows the Australian team's defence of the International Surf Rescue Challenge title at Maroochydore in September and a successful European campaign in November to contest the International Dutch Cup and International German Cup. Of the 12 athletes chosen, five were members of the all-conquering youth team which dominated the Lifesaving World Championships in France two years ago.

The Australian Life Saving Team (Open) is:

Women:

Jordan Mercer (Noosa SLSC)
Georgia Miller (Newport SLSC)
Melissa Cracroft-Wilson (Kurrawa SLSC)
Prue Davies (Currumbin SLSC/ Queensland RLSSA)
Pam Hendry (Maroochydore SLSC/ Queensland RLSSA)
Chelsea Gillett (Maroochydore SLSC/ Queensland RLSSA)

Men:

Dane Farrell (Newport SLSC)
Sam Bell (Maroochydore SLSC/ Queensland RLSSA)
Tim Schofield (Terrigal SLSC/ Hills LSC)
Matt Davis (Currumbin SLSC)
Bradley Woodward (Catherine Hill Bay SLSC/ The Hills LSC)
Jake Lynch (Newport SLSC)

The Australian Life Saving Team (Youth) is:

Women:

Jemma Smith (Umina SLSC/ Hills LSC)
Rachel Wood (Umina SLSC / Hills LSC)
Nicole Kay (Kurrawa SLSC)
Rachel Eddy (Kurrawa SLSC)
Lizzie Welborn (North Bondi SLSC)
Samantha Howe (Pt. Leo SLSC)

Men:

Charlie Brooks (Newport SLSC)
Issac Smith (Newport SLSC)
Toby Wilson (Northcliffe SLSC)
Ethan Garland (North Cronulla SLSC / Port Hacking Lifeguard Club)
Callum Lowe-Griffiths (Queenscliff SLSC / Hills LSC)
Cody Rychvalsky (Maroochydore SLSC).

Australian Life Saving Team



Program on First Aid & CPR
Raiganj, Sirajganj

INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS



INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS

Royal Life Saving is a member organisation of the International Life Saving Federation, a network of lifesaving agencies from across the world who share a commitment to drowning prevention.

Increasingly our skills and expertise are being utilised to assist the international communities in most need. Drowning rates in the Asia-Pacific region are frighteningly high and largely unnoticed.

Royal Life Saving continues to work with the International Life Saving Federation and partners, The Alliance for Safe Children (TASC), the Centre for Injury Prevention and Research of Bangladesh (CIPRB), Hanoi School of Public Health and others in the development of interventions to prevent drowning in countries in Asia.

Justin Scarr CEO and Amy Peden National Manager Research and Policy, Royal Life Saving visiting Kiribati.



The Global Drowning Fund

The Global Drowning Fund website and social media platforms are being used to advocate drowning in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) as a global public health issue, provide resources, news and information about the issue, and act as a central fundraising location. Funds raised through the Global Drowning Fund help to provide training, education, and research, while increasing local skills and capacity for the prevention of drowning in the region.

The Global Drowning Fund can be found at:
<http://www.globaldrowningfund.org.au>
<http://www.facebook.com/globaldrowningfund>
<https://twitter.com/GlobalDrowning>



WHO Western Pacific Drowning Prevention Scoping Study

Royal Life Saving partners with the Western Pacific Regional Office of the World Health Organisation to conduct a situational analysis of drowning in many nations across the region.

This included an insightful study of drowning in the Pacific nation of Kiribati, a beautiful island republic in the central Pacific where 33 atolls with a population of approximately 100,000 and strong concerns about the impacts of rising sea levels. Drowning rates are more than 5 times higher than Australia, with a large number of boating and ferry related incidents, as well as child and older adult drowning during high tides, storm surges and coastal flooding.

The project also involved returning to assist Vietnam and Cambodia in the development of specific drowning interventions in the context of their national injury prevention plans. Vietnam has launched a new Inter-Ministerial Child Drowning Plan, supported by their Prime Minister. Cambodia experiences a large number of flooding related drowning, child drowning in ponds, rivers and irrigation channels, and boat and ferry related drowning which is common in many nations with large river systems.

Bangladesh Anchal and SwimSafe (BASS) Program

Royal Life Saving continues to provide technical support to the BASS program being implemented by Centre for Injury Prevention – Bangladesh in partnership with University of British Columbia, the Alliance for Safe Children.

The BASS program is funded by Grand Challenges Canada and extends initiatives designed to be scaled up across Bangladesh to reduce child drowning. Interventions including SwimSafe and childcare centres known as Anchals in Bangladesh have proven effective, and now work must focus on expanding them across the country. Under the leadership of Dr Steve Beerman and Dr Mike Linnan, we are pleased that the Canadian Government is recognising the programs potential to save lives.

Bridging Communities to Prevent Drowning
4-6 November 2015, Penang Malaysia

The World Conference on Drowning Prevention (WCDP) brings together the International Life Saving Federation member organisations and the world's leading practitioners, researchers and policy makers in drowning prevention, rescue, lifesaving and water safety to learn, discuss and collaborate on the latest progress of drowning prevention.

Royal Life Saving Society – Australia assisted with the organisation of the WCDP2015 facilitating program planning, abstract management, and support of the scholarship program. Royal Life Saving Society – Australia CEO, Justin Scarr, was the Master of Ceremonies for the three day event.

The management of the Scholarship Program was provided by staff and volunteers of the Royal Life Saving Society – Australia on an in-kind basis. Eight organisations, including Royal Life Saving Society – Australia contributed financial support to a range of delegates from nations in greatest need, including Cambodia, Laos, and Bangladesh, who don't have the resources to attend an international conference.

Royal Life Saving Presentations included:

Northern Territory Water Safety Awareness Program: 10 years of making a difference in drowning prevention in children under 5

International Tourists and Unintentional Fatal Drowning in Australia – A 10 year review 2002-2012

Drowning Deaths in Older People: A 10 year analysis of drowning in people aged 50 years and over in Australia

Bronze e-Lifesaving – bringing lifesaving into the classroom for secondary school students

The Royal Life Saving National Fatal Drowning Database: An Historical Overview to Date

Water Safety Strategy – Evolution, successes and challenges

A response to inland drowning research: An educational approach



OUR NETWORK

Royal Life Saving is active all over Australia. Our State and Territory Member Organisations, volunteers, members, trainers, employees and lifesavers are found in almost all communities.

Our approach is inclusive and some of our biggest achievements occur away from large capital cities.

During the past year Royal Life Saving has supported activities in partnership with State and Territory Member Organisations across Australia.

These activities include the provision of seed funding, resources, project management support and mentoring. Workshops have also been facilitated in the areas of water safety, training, health promotion, aquatic risk management, sport and lifeguarding.

State and Territory Member Organisations

ACT	Ph: 02 6260 5800 Email: act@rlssa.org.au
NSW	Ph: 02 9634 3700 Email: nsw@royalnsw.com.au
NT	Ph: 08 8981 5036 Email: nt@rlssa.org.au
QLD	Ph: 07 3823 2823 Email: admin@rlssq.com.au
SA	Ph: 08 8210 4500 Email: training@royallifesavingsa.com.au
TAS	Ph: 03 6243 7558 Email: tas@rlssa.org.au
VIC	Ph: 03 9676 6900 Email: mail@lifesavingvictoria.com.au
WA	Ph: 08 9383 8200 Email: info@rlsswa.com.au

National Office

PO Box 558, Broadway NSW 2007
Suite 6, Level 4, 173-179 Broadway
(Cnr Mountain St), Broadway NSW 2007
Telephone (02) 8217 3111
Fax (02) 8217 3199
ABN 71 008 594 616
Email info@rlssa.org.au
Website: www.royallifesaving.com.au

Our People

Not only do we know lifesaving but our team has expertise in:

- Program design, development, implementation, management and evaluation
- Community and stakeholder consultation and engagement
- Fundraising and finance
- Communications, media and events
- Health promotion, research and risk management

Chief Executive Officer

Justin Scarr

Operations

National Manager Operations

Penny Hodgers

National Manager Aquatic Industry Services

Craig Roberts

National Manager Research and Policy

Amy Peden

Senior Project Officer – Research and Policy

Alison Mahony

Senior Project Officer - Research and Policy (from June 2016)

Stacey Pidgeon

Senior Health Economist (from June 2016)

Paul Barnsley PhD

Senior Research Fellow

Dr Richard Franklin PhD

National Manager Events and Marketing

Monique Sharp

National Manager Education and Training

Penny Larsen

Senior Project Officer - Education

Kristal Grainger

Project Officer - IT

Chris Groneman

Senior Project Officer – Sport & Vocational Training

Ben Cuttriss

Finance and Administration

National Manager Finance

Rhonda Groneman

Administration and Accounts Officer

Sunny Fung

Accounting Support

Bree Connolly

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

This year, as with other areas in Australia, there has been a strong focus on drowning prevention and water safety in inland waterways across the ACT. When the 'Drowning Deaths in Australian Rivers' research report (released in 2014 by Royal Life Saving Society – Australia) revealed that more drowning occurrences can be attributed to Australian rivers than any other kind of aquatic environment, Australians sat up and paid attention.

With 8 rivers, 121 creeks, 4 lakes and a dam the Australian Capital Territory's inland waterways are underestimated more often than not. Royal Life Saving ACT has been working hard within the community to raise awareness of the dangers in these local areas and to highlight the hidden risks. Activities such as the 'A Day at the Lake' community event and 'Lochie on Tour' water safety talks in schools were extremely successful in reaching large populations with the national RLSSA Respect the River message.

As co-chair of the ACT Safe Waters Committee, Royal Life Saving ACT has continued working closely with aquatic recreation groups and representatives to review and update the ACT Safe Waters Action Plan to ensure that all aquatic activities undertaken by Canberrans can be done so in the safest possible environments. As well as rivers lakes and dams, other aquatic locations such as public pools, backyard pools and swimming pools at accommodation sites are all considered in the Action Plan which aligns to the Australian Water Safety Strategy.

ACT Public Pools continued to support Royal Life Saving initiatives and messages with 10 venues commissioning on-site Aquatic Facility Safety Assessments. ACT Public Pools consistently produce higher than average results from these assessments and are to be commended on their commitment to providing safe venues for all patrons.

The heartbreaking loss of a young toddler in a backyard swimming pool incident in late 2015 sent shockwaves throughout the Canberra community. The Territory mourned for the child and the family and we were all brutally reminded that life and time are precious gifts that cannot be taken for granted. Our thoughts remain with those affected by the tragedy, in particular the young one's parents. Royal Life Saving ACT has been communicating with the ACT Government regarding backyard swimming pool safety in the Capital and hopes to carry on these discussions to reach some significant outcomes in the coming year.

As so many philosophies claim, 'our children are our future' and safeguarding them against harm in aquatic environments is one of Royal Life Saving ACT's top priorities. We are grateful for the support provided by the ACT Government and ACT schools to the various school programs we make available each year. Our ACT primary schools' Swim and Survive program, along with the ACT Government's Aquasafe program for Year 2 students, saw 9320 Canberran children acquire new aquatic skills and confidence. With the introduction of the Junior Lifeguard Program another 313 students achieved Bronze Rescue awards for Dry Rescue, Wade Rescue and Accompanied Rescue. It is gratifying to be able to reintroduce these traditional awards to our younger generation and the value of lifesaving skills along with them.

Since Royal Life Saving ACT's incorporation in 1987, our members, volunteers and staff have been working diligently towards our mission of achieving a society free from the burdens of drowning. Over the years, methodologies and strategies for drowning prevention have evolved but still the people behind the ideas and initiatives stay as passionate as ever. We thank them enthusiastically and look forward to a time when our collective efforts are no longer required.

Cherry Bailey

Executive Director

Royal Life Saving Society – Australian Capital Territory

I am pleased to report that the Royal Life Saving Society New South Wales Branch (RLS NSW) has maintained strong partnerships with the NSW Government, communities and key industry networks over the last 12 months. Collectively we have witnessed a continued decline in NSW drowning data over this period indicating that our perseverance and commitment to priority strategies, programs, courses, services and policies is bringing about positive signs. However this is not a time to become complacent and with expected warmer seasonal temperatures, cleaner waterways, increased tourism and Australia's desire for maintaining healthy lifestyles we expect continued high aquatic participation rates well into the future.

The Branch managed to compile a range of key research reports throughout the 2015/16 year to support and validate our frontline programs and services. One initiative of significance included a partnership with Macquarie University whereby an extensive series of surveys was completed to measure the attitudinal and behavioural characteristics of International Students towards our vast aquatic environments. This research has provided a greater insight into student skills and knowledge relating to aquatic participation and will assist in generating pre-arrival induction tools during the next 12 months.

In the area of advocacy one of our key initiatives during the last 12 months was the Be Pool Safe Communication and Engagement Strategy developed in consultation with the NSW Government and Local Councils. This initiative involved a sustained effort to establish and maintain the communities understanding of swimming pool legislative requirements and key water safety messages around backyard swimming pools. The initiative included the distribution of resources and a strong media commitment via TV, radio and print networks.

The devastation caused to family and friends and the 'ripple effect' impacting their local communities, emergency service personnel and hospital staff is immense. Our commitment to the Be Pool Safe initiative is necessary to bring about reduced fatal and non-fatal drownings in NSW.

A major challenge for RLS NSW is to continue to make our programs, messages and services accessible to all communities. Reaching Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities with strategies to address drowning prevention and water safety can sometimes be difficult and these groups are far less likely to access programs via traditional means. This issue can be exacerbated by an often heightened risk of drowning or injury due to a lack of knowledge about local aquatic conditions. During the last 12 months RLS NSW provided free Swim and Survive lessons to over 1,000 adults from targeted CALD communities. The targeting of adults enables us to reinforce the positive aspects of aquatic participation which in turn changes their perception and understanding of water safety. Such an approach has led to many participants enrolling their children and grandchildren into learn to swim programs.

The positive outcomes of this initiative would not have been achieved without the support of public swimming pools and their dedicated staff.

The Royal Life Saving Swim and Survive Program continues to ensure the essential components of personal survival and water safety are provided, in addition to developing strong and effective swimming techniques. Each year around 100,000 children across NSW participate in this program. This equates to more than 1,000,000 individual lessons. Many of these participants reside in regional and remote areas of NSW and are some of the most vulnerable when it comes to aquatic risk. These programs are delivered via our partner pools, schools and Government partners.

In an effort to ensure our public swimming pool remain a safe venue for the public to visit and meet with all statutory requirements, RLS NSW has continued providing Aquatic Facility Safety Assessments (AFSA) for the industry. Each year RLS NSW undertakes in excess of 100 AFSA to assist operators meet industry best practice. To further assist public swimming pools in regional area, RLS NSW provided 380 free training scholarships to ensure facilities had access to trained and accredited Pool Lifeguards and Swim Teachers.

Without our vast community network of volunteers, members, partners and supporters RLS NSW would not be able to achieve the goals and aspirations we aim to reach. In the last 12 months our people:

- Delivered more than 250,000 Swimming, Water Safety and Lifesaving Community Awards
- Issued over 100,000 Vocational Education and Training qualifications
- Distributed 50,000 CPR Certificates, 20,000 First Aid Awards and 10,000 Defibrillator Awards.

This network of Community Lifesavers provides a critical lifesaving structure that is not restricted to aquatic environments but services our sporting grounds, workplaces, shopping centres and even our backyards.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our Patron, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), Governor of New South Wales. His Excellency hosted the Royal Life Saving Commendation Ceremony at Government House Sydney honouring 49 Australians who performed a lifesaving, CPR or first aid rescue in an emergency situations. I would also like to acknowledge the NSW Minister for Sport, The Honourable Stuart Ayres MP who has been a great supporter of Royal Life Saving NSW for many years.

Lastly I would like to thank the Royal Life Saving National Office for their continued commitment to the development of water safety policy, research and strategy. Thank you to Justin Scarr and the national team for their continued support of the RLS State and Territory organisations and in particular the NSW Branch.

David Macallister

Chief Executive Officer

Royal Life Saving Society – New South Wales

NORTHERN TERRITORY

The number one focus for Royal Life Saving Northern Territory is drowning prevention strategies relevant to the needs of our community. We remain true to our mission and vision which are critical to keeping our community safe. Despite our committed actions, the Northern Territory maintains the highest drowning rate, per capita, in Australia.

We have a very strong strategic plan – “Our People, Our Lifestyle, Our Water 2016-2020”, and our organisation continues to build strong community relationships that ensure courses, programs and drowning prevention strategies and community events are delivered to communities throughout the NT whether they are in urban, rural or remote areas. This year saw an increase in service delivery while dealing with the challenge of establishing a permanent headquarters in Darwin and an office based in Alice Springs. We have secured a long term lease with the City of Darwin at the Parap Recreation Facility and are still working towards an office solution for Alice Springs.

An amazing number of 20,538 certificates were issued, including 13,372 from the Swim and Survive program and 7,166 training certificates and 50% of this training was conducted in regional and remote areas. 296 Training courses were conducted over the NT and 2,185 statements of attainments were issued under Vocational Education and Training. During this time we developed and implemented the Royal Life Saving Respect the River Campaign including the NT BE RiverSafe campaign.

In 2015/16 we celebrated 1551 active members and conducted 84 community events reaching 86,400 people. Royal Life Saving NT provided a direct community benefit and services to 109,414 people across the Northern Territory. This is the first time we have achieved our strategic goal of reaching 40% of our population. Having 29 Keep Watch Ambassadors from NT and Federal Government helped us to share water safety messages to families across the Territory.

13,372 primary school aged children from 91 schools participated in the Swim and Survive program, with 750 achieving the national benchmark of level 4. While participation numbers have remained constant, the number achieving a level 4 and above has decreased with 3% of enrolled students achieving the National Benchmark. Royal Life Saving NT are deeply concerned about these statistics and have launched a petition to call on Government to fund the Swim and Survive Program for Primary School students in years 4, 5 and 6.

2,483 children from 27 remote communities participated in the Remote Swim, Survive and Strive project. The project enabled children to learn to swim and participate in a pool lifesaving carnival. The project has implemented a training and AUSTSWIM mentoring program to assist local people in obtaining employment or volunteer services at their community swimming pool. 220 local community people participated in this training.

Royal Life Saving NT manages the Water Safety Unit for the NT Government. This includes administration of the NT Water Safety Advisory Council, reporting for the NT Water Safety Strategy, delivery of Water Safety Week and Pipes and Drains Campaign and the administration of the Water Safety Awareness Program. This program provides a fantastic opportunity for families to access free water safety lessons for their child. This year a record breaking 2,476 enrolments were received with sixteen providers operating across the NT. 17,111 children have participated in this program since inception. The NT Government linked the Water Safety Awareness Program to the Learn to Swim Vouchers to ensure a strong policy in drowning prevention of children under 5. Both programs have been positively received by families across the Northern Territory.

The Sport of Pool Lifesaving achieved increased participation with over 3,000 children participating in carnivals in Darwin, Katherine, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and remote communities. Royal Life Saving NT sent a team of nine lifesaving athletes to the Australian Pool Life Saving Championships on the Gold Coast. We placed 7th overall, a fantastic achievement. Thanks to our coaches, volunteers and officials whose ongoing commitment and contribution to the sport makes a huge difference for our community.

I am pleased to complete my report by advising members, stakeholders and supporters that the NT Branch is in a strong position and looks forward to the ongoing challenges. I would like to sincerely thank our devoted volunteers including the Executive Management Team led by Randall Cook, our trainers, instructors and our members. Thank you also to Royal Life Saving National Office and all the State and Territory Branches of Royal Life Saving for their professionalism and commitment to collaboration. Finally I would like to thank the fantastic staff for their continued dedication and drive. I am proud and honoured to be part of a fantastic team that is strengthened and led by our values of: Integrity, Respect, Quality and Leadership.

Yours in Lifesaving

Floss Roberts

Executive Director

Royal Life Saving Society – Northern Territory

QUEENSLAND

As a peak body in water safety and drowning prevention in our state, Royal Life Saving Society Queensland (RLSSQ) through our volunteer members, Trainers and Assessors and staff have performed their roles with distinction in the pursuit of reducing the incidence of loss of life and injury in Aquatic Environments.

The 2015/16 season commenced with the energy and excitement of the Aquafutures Conference which brought together all facets of the Aquatic Industry and lifesaving communities in Australia with a splash of international guests and presenters to make it a prodigious event. Keynote presenters Mark McCrindle (Demographer) and Kylie Bartlett (Social media) provided a modern take of the Aquatic Industry. Our guest presenter from RLSS UK, Danielle Peel provided a snapshot of the current drowning prevention picture in the UK including the challenges, the successes to date, new products and innovations. RLSSQ appreciates the support of RLSS UK and RLSSA in enabling Danielle to present at the Conference. It was fantastic to see so many members and industry friends at the event and we look forward to hosting more member and aquatic industry events in the future.

December 2015 saw the final stage of the Queensland pool safety laws introduced. Since the first pool regulations were introduced in 1991, there has been an overall reduction of deaths by drowning of 55%. In that time the number of pools has risen from 14 pools for every 100 households, to one pool for every 5 households and the population of children aged 0-4yrs has increased by 24%. The new standards are still in their infancy but with the first five years of partial compliance completed, they have yielded further reductions in the drowning rate.

Throughout the year RLSSQ members have delivered across the length and breadth of Queensland such programs as open water rescue delivered in Birdsville, swim and survive in Woorabinda and Pool Lifeguard Courses held in Doomadgee. These programs would not be possible without our group of dedicated trainers and assessor who are willing to travel hundreds of kilometres to perform these tasks.

Sporting success came to Queensland this year with victory in the Australian Pool Life Saving Championships last January at the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre. The Team, which was led by Coach Jeannie Baxter-Reid, broke the New South Wales grip on the title with strong performances across the board. The team was supported by a band of volunteers who fed, watered and transported the athletes, which enabled them to concentrate giving their best in all events. Many of the athletes will go on to represent Australia or their clubs at the World Championships in the Netherlands and we wish them all the best.

RLSSQ has achieved a lot over the past year but the sober reality is that Queenslanders are still unnecessarily drowning. There were 66 drowning deaths in Queensland in 2015/16, which is a decrease of 4% on the 10-year average but up 5 deaths on the 2014/15 year. Of great concern is the number of young men drowning with 27 males aged 18-44 year olds dying in Queensland land waterways. Clearly more effort is required in this area and RLSSQ must respond to the challenge.

The Board of Directors and staff have been truly engaged in our mission whilst our members have stepped up to the plate to deliver the water safety services which are so critically important in the Sunshine State. Thank you all.

Michael Darben

Executive Director

Royal Life Saving Society – Queensland

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Royal Life Saving SA continued to promote and deliver the Swim & Survive program where participation increased to over 9,000 people across 90 South Australian locations. With funding support from the Office for Recreation and Sport, Royal Life Saving delivered SA's iconic and successful Vacswim program employing in excess of 348 casual instructors and supervisors, and delivered alongside our annual vacation Swim & Survive program. We continue to offer places at subsidised rates to those in the community in greatest need.

The Office for Recreation and Sport has recently supported the delivery of the Grey Medallion program. Summer season will see 400 people aged over 50 years participate in the program at 20 locations with a focus on regional and remote locations.

Our Inland Water Initiative, Respect the River, continued to work with key partners along the River Murray to address the issue of drowning prevention through public promotion, and education to raise awareness and build skills in supervision, aquatic proficiency and rescue skills.

Our team has worked with the Murraylands Regional Tourist Association, Taillem Bend Indigenous leaders, Houseboat Hirers Association, River Murray Boating and Recreational Advisory Group, Mid-Murray Council representatives including the CEO, Murray Bridge Sailability, Floatfest committee, Houseboat Hirers Association, River Murray Boating Association, 16 Secondary Schools, 25 Primary Schools, Kids Safe SA, Recreation SA, Caravan Association SA, Head Space Murray Bridge, MP Adrian Pederick, M, the department of State Development, Community Care Support Murray Bridge and the Berri Regional Development Board.

The Respect the River Marquee was setup at special events including the Paskeville Field day, Floatfest launch in Adelaide (Rundle Mall), Gala day in Loxton, International Disability day at Murray Bridge, the Adelaide Boat Show and the Floatfest weekend at Mannum and we attended School Gala Days at Callington, Murray Bridge and Mannum. Many staff and volunteers participated in weekend Christmas pageants in Norwood, Renmark, Mannum, Murray Bridge and Taillem Bend.

Our First Aid and Resuscitation training courses continued to be a large part of our VET program. Despite tough economic conditions in South Australia, we performed reasonably well considering the downturn in first aid enrolment numbers experienced across the State.

South Australia implemented a new assessment moderation initiative for Pool Lifeguard training that utilises the most experienced industry, VET and RTO people to moderate the work of our trainers (both in-class and desktop). A new 5-year Validation plan has recently been implemented by the SA VET committee.

The implementation of the aXcelerate student management system in South Australia has been well received and we thank Chris Groneman at the National Office for his assistance during setup. The system is promoting a more efficient RTO requiring less human resources to operate with greater output.

Our Aquatic Industry Services work continued with large Council run Pools, promoting our training and aquatics services, labour hire, the Guidelines for Safe Aquatic Venues (GSAV) and on-site Aquatic Facility Safety Assessments. We have continued to actively contribute to the National Reference and Advisory Committee and continuous improvement of the GSAV.

We have undertaken pool safety inspections in seven metropolitan and three rural pools during the year. The GSAV is included within the new Recreation SA Code of Practice for Public Swimming Pools in South Australia. Royal Life Saving assisted the Recreation SA committee to compile the Code of Practice for Public Swimming Pools in South Australia and continue to liaise with industry professionals by participating in conferences and communication. We provided advice to metropolitan and rural Local Government. We thank Grant Watkins for his experience and efforts in this technical area.

A team of twenty athletes represented South Australia at the Australian Pool Lifesaving Championships 2015. They returned with 12 gold medals, 9 silver medals and 4 bronze medals representing a terrific result of overall 4th place. The South Australian Pool Lifesaving Championships were held at the Adelaide Aquatic Centre in March with competitors from Mount Gambier, Parks and Payneham Clubs. As usual, an outstanding contribution and performance from our Pool Lifesaving Team.

I thank all dedicated Staff, Volunteers, Board and Committee members for the contributions throughout the year and look forward to the next period of growth for South Australia.

Tony Taylor

Chief Executive Officer
Royal Life Saving Society – South Australia

TASMANIA

In presenting the first Annual Report and Financial Statement of Royal Life Saving Tasmania's second Centenary (yes, our 101st report), we reflect on another year of change, challenge, commitment, congratulations and contribution from many!

2015-16 has been a period of consolidation; consolidating the growth achieved in the preceding years largely generated and led by current and previous Executive Directors, Paula Robertson and Mel Bush who I pay credit to both for their efforts in turning RLST into a viable, focussed provider of quality aquatic training.

Consolidation of our governance and leadership structures has also been a focus, to provide sustainability for the organisation into the future both in terms of government funding and commercial revenue.

The primary focus for the organisation has been on delivering the Respect the River campaign which has also provided invaluable brand awareness as well as strong community engagement opportunities. Our participation at regional festivals including the Tasman Regatta and the Oatlands Family Fun Day and while meeting the requirements of this campaign has challenged the organisation, it has also enabled the team to step up and demonstrate our strengths in working in partnership with many rural and regional communities. The team has "been everywhere" across Tasmania, ensuring the message of drowning prevention education and advocacy reaches those communities in rural and regional Tasmania where it's most needed.

Our partnership with our education colleagues continues to grow stronger with more regional and remote areas receiving update training. Our contract to deliver CPR and aquatic updates to Department of Education teachers entered its second year with teachers travelling from Flinders and King Islands to participate.

We have also maintained our place as a key provider of aquatic training in rural and regional areas with an expansion of partnerships with local government councils on the West Coast and the Northern Midlands.

Professional development of emergency services personnel was also a key focus over the 2015-16 summer with RLST delivering spinal management training to Tas Ambulance, State Emergency Service and local Tas Fire officers.

In pursuit of strong and effective partnerships we were engaged by local aged care facility One Care and YMCA Hobart to oversee compliance and risk management procedures associated with the opening of their jointly managed wellness centre in the northern suburbs of Hobart. We started 2016 with the registration of 27 Swim and Survive partners across the State including all the major aquatic centres.

We have continued to embrace innovative delivery methods resulting in an increase in the participation of students across the State in the Bronze e-lifesaving program. A key focus has also been engaging these students in a lifesaving pathway through to Bronze Medallion and Pool Lifeguard courses.

We have also focussed our efforts on providing access to swimming and water safety training for Aboriginal and CALD children and young people through partnerships with government funders.

The partnership with Royal Life Saving Queensland has gone from strength to strength, generating significant increases in participation rates. The Queensland team has provided invaluable support to our office and improvement in the completion of course paperwork has generated positive feedback.

The importance of future planning has also been a focus for RLST, with a significant review of the Strategic Plan nearing completion. Coupled with a complete overhaul of the Constitution, the State Council has positioned the organisation in a much stronger place to deal with the challenges of operating in a state with a small population and an increasing number of commercial providers of CPR and first aid training. A number of efficiencies contributed to an improvement in our bottom line including restructure of course length and a greater focus on online course options, in line with market demand.

Over the last year, effort has been directed at better supporting our network of trainers through the provision of scholarships to upskill as well as more targeted recruit campaigns. A number of compliance issues were identified resulting in training provided to all registered trainers over a weekend in May.

The team is small but their passion and enthusiasm for providing Tasmanians with the best water safety skills is huge and for the recording of a small surplus for the second year in a row indicates they are well in sight of their goal.

Royal Life Saving Society – Tasmania

VICTORIA

Life Saving Victoria (LSV) has continued its strong leadership advocacy for reducing drowning incidents in Victorian communities in 2015/16 with developments across several key projects.

We have collaborated with the aquatics industry to develop the Victorian Water Safety Strategy 2016-2020, aligned with the national strategy and the Victorian Emergency Management Strategic Action Plan 2015-2018.

LSV's Risk and Research team partnered with Ambulance Victoria to investigate fatal and non-fatal drowning incidents attended by paramedics in Victoria from 2007 – 2012. With 339 non-fatal drowning incidents attended by Victorian paramedics during this period, the study is the first to use spatial analysis to find the relative risk ratios for fatal and non-fatal drowning, which will enable geographic and age-specific targeting in planning drowning prevention responses.

LSV continued its work as part of international drowning prevention efforts in Sri Lanka, conducting an evaluation and review of the 'Swim for Safety' survival swimming program trial. We also initiated collaboration for future research into survival swimming with the University of Peradeniya in Kandy. The team also attended the third Drowning Reduction Plans workshop in Sri Lanka to assist other countries in the development, monitoring and evaluation of local water safety plans.

With a record 10 LSV research presentations at the World Conference on Drowning Prevention in Penang, Malaysia in November 2015, LSV continues to share the work being done in Victoria and Sri Lanka with the wider industry.

The Inland Waterways Drowning Prevention Project continued in 2015/16 with LSV ensuring that Respect the River messaging was prominent in the lead up to summer in the State's two key blackspot areas; the Murray and Yarra Rivers. In November 2015, 16 km of Yarra River waterway was assessed within the City of Melbourne with a consultative draft tabled in mid-2016, which will inform the campaign's risk mitigation actions to be implemented in the coming year. LSV also completed a risk project on Lysterfield Lake in partnership with Parks Victoria and contributed to the subsequent risk mitigation program.

LSV continued its strong engagement with the Victorian aquatics industry, leading The Play It Safe By The Water Community Awareness Campaign, Education and Research project, which continues to attract industry, sporting and government agencies. Almost 200 aquatic industry personnel attended LSV's annual Pool Safety Summit, to discuss current industry challenges and the future of aquatic safety at public pools. A further 113 delegates from 54 Swim and Survive licensees actively participated in two Swim and Survive Forums facilitated by LSV throughout the year.

There were 140 accredited Watch Around Water facilities and a new partnership with Ixom Operations is supporting the continued development of the Watch Around Water program, including the roll-out of an online resource centre to enable accredited facilities to access program resources.

In 2015/16, LSV delivered Sink or Swim (classroom program) and the Open Water Learning Experience (excursion) programs to 31,778 participants from schools across Victoria in regions deemed at risk for drowning. A further 2,357 students completed the Royal Life Saving Bronze eLifesaving program.

Swim and Survive saw 190 Victorian licensees' award more than 141,000 logbooks and certificates to participants. A successful review was also undertaken of LSV's management of the Swim and Survive program during the year, to help improve support for licensees and grow the program in Victoria. Continued rollout of the Grey Medallion program in Victoria also saw up to 60 older adults participate in the RLSSA program across Melbourne.

LSV was fortunate to have received RLSSA funding to allow 260 Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) children, the majority newly arrived or refugees, the opportunity to learn to swim in 2015/16. Six courses were conducted at six different pools located in Melbourne's most culturally diverse local government areas; Wyndham, City of Greater Dandenong, Monash, Brimbank, City of Melbourne and Brimbank. All aged from 5~14 years old, and from a multitude of countries from around the world, these CALD children are now far safer around water and comfortable with their new found local aquatic facilities.

Training delivery is now easier and faster, thanks to LSV's new Offline Training App, which provides up to date information, reduces paperwork and tracks live data, ensuring compliance standards are met across our courses.

The Geelong Leisurelink team was victorious in the 2016 Pool Lifeguard Challenge; an energetic test of lifeguarding skill and teamwork involving 18 teams from 30 aquatic centres, held at North Melbourne Recreation Centre in March 2016.

The sport had a successful year with two junior carnivals and a junior Championship, where 342 competitors from 10 lifesaving clubs participated. In the Senior Competition, three carnivals and a championship saw 362 competitors from 16 clubs compete. Williamstown S&LSC won the Junior Championships and Mordialloc LSC won the Senior Championships. Highlight of the Victorian season was a 3rd place overall for the Victorian Pool Team at the RLSSA Australian Pool Lifesaving Championships on the Gold Coast.

Report provided by Life Saving Victoria (LSV)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Royal Life Saving Society Western Australia Inc. has made substantial progress over the past twelve months. With direct support from the National Office we delivered a range of Swim and Survive and Respect the River programs.

Diversity has been a major focus with the formation of an Inclusion Taskforce to fast track the engagement of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities. In 2015/16 we conducted 49 programs reaching 1,676 participants. Additionally the work we have undertaken in remote Aboriginal communities has made a tangible contribution to improving physical activity, education and health outcomes.

Advances have been made with the Swimming Pool and Spa Association to eliminate toddler drowning. WA has an effective system for maintaining pool barriers. Our greatest challenge is to equip every home pool owner with lifesaving and first aid skills. During 2015/16 we had 5,146 parents, carers and children attend free workshops and information sessions.

Regional Western Australia faces a number of challenges in respect to drowning and we have responded by delivering 812 regional training programs engaging 4,100 participants.

Substantial growth has also been achieved in the recruitment and retention of our Members. During 2015/16 a number of strategies were pursued to engage with, recognise and reward members who have made a significant contribution. Highlights being the presentation of awards at the AGM, Bravery Awards and community functions.

New investment in information technology has created a backbone for the deployment of programs, services, research reports, resources and tools amongst our state-wide network of 593 community trainers, 120 Endorsed Swim and Survive schools and 39 Junior Lifeguard Clubs.

While prevention remains at the core of our activities, Royal Life Saving Society WA has strengthened its focus on providing support for families and friends impacted by drowning and assistance to victims of non-fatal drowning.

I would like to thank the Royal Life Saving Society - Australia for their continued leadership and commitment to the development of water safety research, strategy and programs. Thank you to Justin Scarr and the National Office Team for their continued support.

Peter Leaversuch

Chief Executive Officer
Royal Life Saving Society – Western Australia



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 2016

	2016	2015
Revenue	4,035,257	3,925,575
Fundraising	23,000	55,095
Other Income	60,150	63,651
Total Income	4,118,407	4,044,321
Expenses		
Management and Administration expenses	850,120	821,448
Fundraising	22,854	54,136
Media Meeting and Promotional Expenses	329,318	333,212
Programs and Program Support	2,747,440	2,686,745
Provision for doubtful debts	-	-
Amortisation and Depreciation	59,796	59,486
Total Expenses	4,009,528	3,955,027
Net Surplus for the year	108,879	89,294
Comprehensive Income	0	0
Total Comprehensive income attributable to the Members of RLSSA	\$108,879	\$89,294

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as at 30 June 2016

	2016	2015
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	2,665,341	2,851,212
Receivables	46,282	89,164
Inventories	96,416	73,543
Other	50,360	23,560
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	2,858,399	3,037,479
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	1,872,948	1,916,858
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	1,872,948	1,916,858
TOTAL ASSETS	4,731,347	4,954,337
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors and borrowings	2,055,797	2,332,926
Provisions	898,013	941,793
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	2,953,810	3,274,719
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors and borrowings	25,249	36,209
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	25,249	36,209
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,979,059	3,310,928
NET ASSETS	\$1,752,288	\$1,643,409
RETAINED FUNDS		
Retained surplus	1,216,512	1,107,633
Asset revaluation reserve	535,776	535,776
TOTAL RETAINED FUNDS	\$1,752,288	\$1,643,409

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

HONOURS

SENIOR AUSTRALIAN HONOURS

Meritorious Service Medal

C M Calnan (SA)
B Roberts (QLD)
RW Moyse (SA)
John Robertson Spender (QLD)
1957 Wilma Lewis (NSW)
1957 Hampton Lewis (NSW)
1958 G Young (NSW)
1959 E.C.S Meldrum (SA)
1959 Bruce Clifton (NSW)
1959 C Webb (TAS)
1959 D Ebsworth (TAS)
1959 R Penwright (TAS)
1959 A Park (TAS)
1959 Douglas Robert Plaister (TAS)
1959 B Plaister (TAS)
1959 Ina Lillian Arthur (NSW)
1959 Allan Geoffrey Simpson (NSW)
1959 Thomas Ewington Howard (NSW)
1959 Lancelot Barry Dawson (NSW)
1959 Owen Paul Leonard (NSW)
1959 Alfred Brian Hayer (NSW)
1959 Lawrence Samuel Slattery (NSW)
1959 Arthur Stephens (NSW)
1959 Lesley Martin Wasley (NSW)
1959 Dulcie Muriel English (NSW)
1959 Kenneth Charles Breyley (NSW)
1959 Lawrence Frederick Smith (NSW)
1960 M Church (TAS)
1960 M Plaister (TAS)
1960 H.L Dowding (TAS)
1960 N.J Ruddock (TAS)
1960 H F Paull (NSW)
1960 V.J Shaw (TAS)
1960 D.N Wicks (TAS)
1960 S Thyne (TAS)
1960 L.W Salmon (TAS)
1960 E A Fry (NSW)
1960 J Liprot (TAS)
1960 Lady Harris (TAS)
1960 Judge Harvey Prior (NSW)
1961 J Ingles (TAS)
1961 Basil Osborne (TAS)
1961 VB Plaister (TAS)
1961 R.S Collins (TAS)
1963 Francis John Henry (NSW)
1963 George Turnbull (NSW)
1963 J Whitebrook (NSW)
1963 AW McClure (NSW)
1964 B Brain (TAS)
1966 Harry Bamford (NSW)
1971 Cam Fitzgerald (VIC)
1972 Dennis Brian Colquhoun (NSW)
1977 K.J Shields (VIC)
1978 R.S Veale (VIC)
1978 J Smith (NSW)
1978 Ken Southgate (QLD)
1978 Bruce Campbell (QLD)
1978 M.L Eddey (VIC)
1978 R Firkin (NSW)
1979 V.J Forde AM (SA)
1979 Justin Bradley (NSW)
1979 J Conabere OBE (VIC)
1979 Phillip Rice (VIC)
1979 NR Collins (TAS)
1979 Brian Prideaux (NSW)
1979 W Blakeney (NSW)
1979 D Johannes (NSW)
1979 Stanley Blanks (VIC)
1981 D Bateman (VIC)
1982 Gwendolyn Welford BEM(C)(QLD)
1982 Kevin N. Burrowes OAM (SA)

1982 Sir Walter Leonard (NSW)
1983 Rowley Vass (NSW)
1984 Raymond M Martin OAM (SA)
1984 Ailsa Nicholson (QLD)
1985 Sheena Dyason (QLD)
1985 Lester Vivian Marston (WA)
1986 E.D Vass (NSW)
1986 J Eyles (NSW)
1986 Victor John Dennis (WA)
1986 C. Heckenberg (NSW)
1986 P Neenan (NAT)
1990 Ken G. Richter (SA)
1991 Daphne Read AO (NT)
1992 Barry J. Stanton OAM (SA)
1992 Philip Marquet (NSW)
1992 K. L. Milne (SA)
1992 Nigel R. Carins (TAS)
1992 John Kew (SA)
1992 Janice Oates (SA)
1992 John Coles (SA)
1992 Robyn Pryce-Jones (TAS)
1992 Gerald Brameld OAM (QLD)
1993 Dr. Mervyn R. Allen (SA)
1993 John McClelland (QLD)
1993 Hazel Woodley (NSW)
1993 Keith Draper (NSW)
1994 Margaret Krueger (SA)
1994 Vincent McStraw (SA)
1994 G.H Krueger (SA)
1995 Christopher Planeta (SA)
1995 Garry Winter (NSW)
1995 John W. Harvey (SA)
1996 Alan B. Swinton OAM QPM (TAS)
1996 Robert G. Yule (SA)
1997 Ann Price (SA)
1997 Theresa Leopold (SA)
1998 Edward Cross (NSW)
1998 Warwick Twigg (NSW)
1998 Anita Eifler (WA)
1999 Ian Mackie AM (NAT)
1999 John Law (QLD)
1999 Heather MacGowan OAM (WA)
1999 Margaret Clayton (VIC)
1999 Frances May Murphy (WA)
1999 Rex Hopkins (VIC)
1999 Dr Gerard Meijer (QLD)
1999 Barbara Richards (VIC)
2000 Faye Trevor (SA)
2000 Mark Needham (SA)
2000 David Bennetts (NSW)
2001 C Dedman (SA)
2001 Professor John Pearn AO RFD (QLD)
2002 Audrey Severn (QLD)
2002 Dr Mel Bergin (NSW)
2002 Albert Trevenar (NSW)
2003 David J. Mourant (TAS)
2003 Patricia Quick (SA)
2003 The Hon. Terence Higgins AO (ACT)
2003 Harold James Hird (ACT)
2003 Lesley Bartlett (SA)
2004 Jan Burton (SA)
2004 David Dewar (SA)
2005 Hayden Lamshed (SA)
2005 Faye Milham (SA)
2006 Gaynor Power (SA)
2008 David Grant (VIC)
2008 Les Mole (QLD)
2008 Karen Freak (SA)
2008 Gary W. Kearney (TAS)
2009 Jane Minear (SA)
2009 Anne Rule (SA)
2009 Ernita McGrath (NSW)
2009 Clive Austin (NSW)
2009 Peter Doyle (VIC)
2013 Alison A. McIntyre (TAS)

2013 Julie Crea (VIC)
2014 Anthony J. Bandle (ACT)
2014 Katharine Midgley (NT)
2015 Randall Cook (NT)
2015 Carolyn Asher (QLD)

SENIOR COMMONWEALTH HONOURS CONFERRED

Honorary Life Member

1977 Francis John Henry (NSW)
1977 George Turnbull (NSW)
1983 Margaret P. Stevens (VIC)
1988 Stanley Blanks (VIC)
1988 Cam Fitzgerald (VIC)
1990 Jack Farmer (VIC)
1993 James Burrowes (VIC)
1994 Norman Farmer (VIC)
1995 Kevin N. Burrowes (SA)
1995 Phillip Rice (VIC)
1995 Ken Southgate (QLD)
1995 Barry J. Stanton (SA)
1999 Dr. Mervyn R. Allen (SA)
1999 John Coles (SA)
1999 V.J. Forde AM (SA)
1999 Raymond M. Martin OAM (SA)
2000 John Kew (SA)
2000 G.H. Krueger (SA)
2000 Margaret Krueger (SA)
2001 Ann Price (SA)
2003 Gerald Brameld OAM (QLD)
2003 John McClelland (QLD)
2004 Bruce Campbell (QLD)
2004 Anita Eifler (WA)
2004 Ross Williams (QLD)
2005 Alan B. Swinton OAM QPM (TAS)
2006 Theresa Leopold (SA)
2006 Faye Trevor (SA)
2007 Lesley Bartlett (SA)
2007 Theresa Leopold (SA)
2007 Patricia Quick (SA)
2007 Faye Trevor (SA)
2008 David Dewar (SA)
2011 Faye Milham (SA)

Honorary Life Governor

1977 B. Pattinson (SA)
1981 W. Blakeney (NSW)
1981 George Turnbull (NSW)
1984 Francis John Henry (NSW)
1986 Leon Leis (QLD)
1999 Kevin N. Burrowes (SA)
1999 Barry J. Stanton (SA)
2004 Ann Price (SA)
2004 Raymond M Martin OAM (SA)
2004 John Kew (SA)
2011 Lesley Bartlett (SA)
2011 Theresa Leopold (SA)
2011 Patricia Quick (SA)
2011 Faye Trevor (SA)
2012 Alan B. Swinton OAM QPM (TAS)

Vice President

1981 Robert Stinson (QLD)
1988 Neville Bayfield OAM (NSW)
1994 Heather MacGowan OAM (WA)
1997 The Hon. Terence Higgins AO (ACT)
2003 Dr Shayne Baker OAM (QLD)

OUR PARTNERS

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

Australian Government

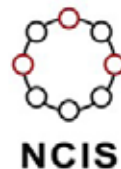


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EVERYONE CAN BE A LIFESAVER



Royal Life Saving

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