

A photograph of three women of Asian descent smiling and posing in a swimming pool. The woman on the left is wearing a red t-shirt and a brown swim cap with yellow polka dots and black goggles. The woman in the middle is wearing a blue and green striped tank top. The woman on the right is wearing a black t-shirt. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is slightly blurred, showing the pool's edge and some indoor lighting.

MULTICULTURAL POPULATIONS

Drowning data for people born overseas,
visiting or living in Australia

2017/18*

49
DEATHS

2016/17

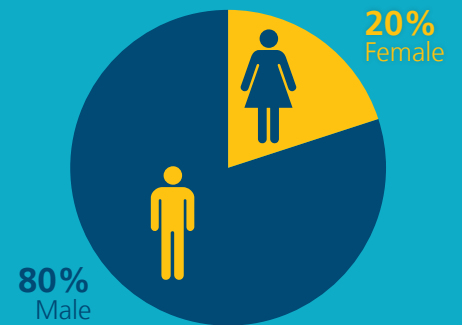
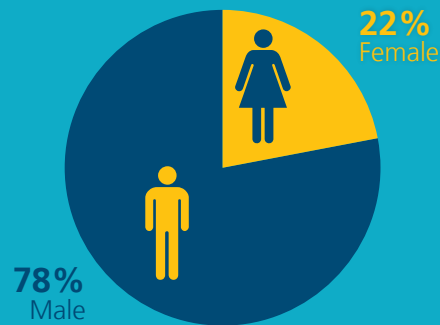
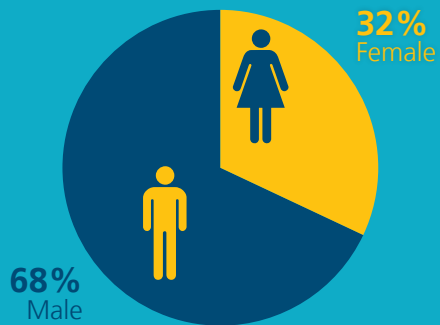
76
DEATHS

10-YEAR AVERAGE

79
DEATHS

↓ 38%

SEX



Residents

Overseas Visitors

(on holiday or visiting friends/relatives in Australia)

2017/18

44 **5**



10-YEAR AVERAGE

69 ↓ 36% **11** ↓ 55%



2016/17

63 **13**



MULTICULTURAL POPULATIONS

Swimming skills and water safety knowledge among overseas visitors is known to be less robust than those who have grown up in Australia.²¹⁻²² An increase in new residents from a range of countries and cultures in recent years has important implications for drowning prevention strategies to ensure everyone recreating in and around Australia's waterways remains safe.

There is, therefore, a need for tailored water safety strategies to target multicultural communities appropriately

using clear messaging that is both culturally sensitive and educational. This requires specific information aimed at overseas transient populations (such as holiday makers, seasonal workers or those visiting on short-term business), new permanent residents and international students.²¹

One element of this targeted approach is to encourage greater cultural diversity among those working in the aquatic industry in Australia, which can help to engage multicultural populations.

UNITED KINGDOM 90 (14%)

SOUTH KOREA 30 (10%)

CHINA 64 (10%)

INDIA 29 (5%)

NEW ZEALAND 46 (7%)



Countries with the highest number of drowning deaths from 2008/09 to 2017/18

EMERGING COMMUNITIES AT RISK 10-year total (crude rate*)

Taiwan	22 (6.1)
Sudan	10 (4.5)
South Korea	30 (3.6)
Nepal	10 (3.6)
Ireland	18 (2.4)

*per 100,000 population living in Australia

CURRENT TRENDS IN MIGRATION

2017/18²³

OVERSEAS VISITORS

in 2017/18 were most commonly from:

- China
- United Kingdom
- United States of America

The highest growth in visitor numbers over the past decade was from:

- China (309%)
- India (189%)
- Hong Kong (153%)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Numbers have increased by 10% from 2016/17. They are most commonly from:

- China
- India
- Nepal

In 2017/18, the top three nationalities that transitioned from a student visa to a permanent visa were:

- China ↑22%
- India ↑10%
- Vietnam ↑8%

RESIDENTS

New permanent residents were most commonly from:

- India
- China
- United Kingdom

Key groups within the overseas-born population

10-Year Data Breakdown

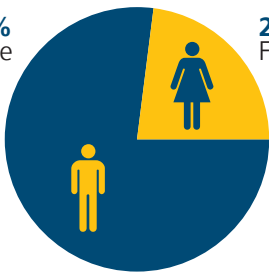


1st July 2008

30th June 2018

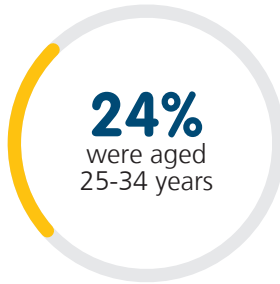
27% of total drowning deaths during the 10-year period

77%
Male



23%
Female

24%
were aged
25-34 years



658
people

83%
were permanent
residents in
Australia at the
time of death
rather than
visitors



Overseas-born residents

Overseas visitors

International students



Average drowning
deaths per year

66

11

3



Average age

43 years

57 years

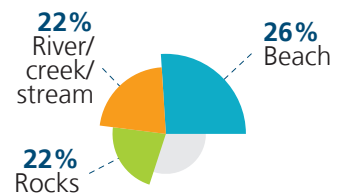
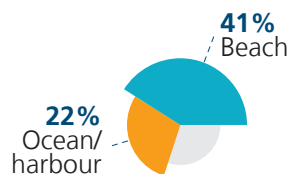
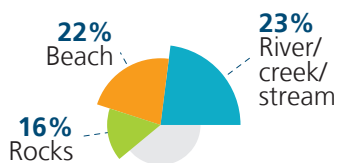
23 years



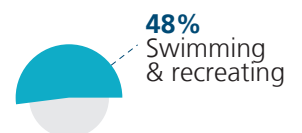
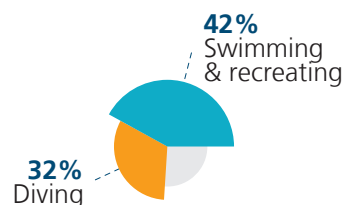
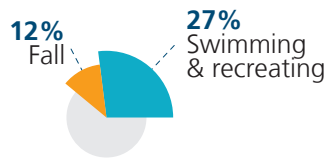
Top 3 countries



Top locations



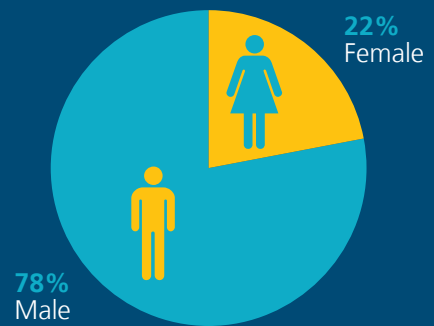
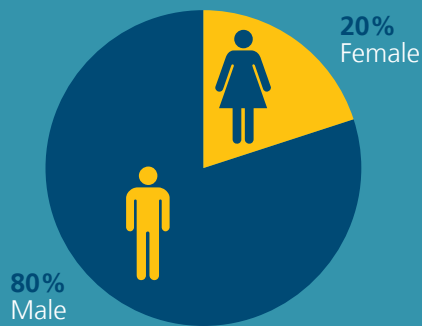
Top activities



TOTAL OVERSEAS BORN, INCLUDING TOURISTS

AUSTRALIAN BORN

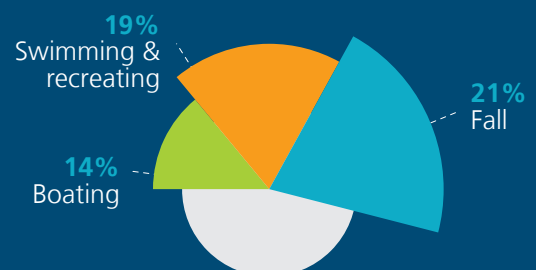
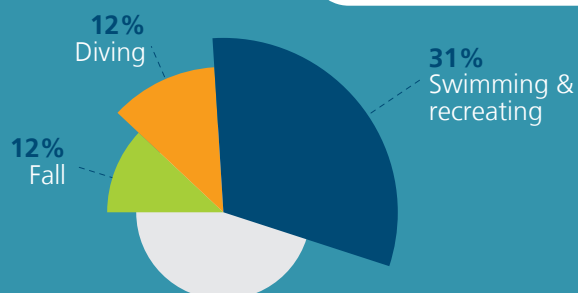
SEX



LOCATION OF DROWNING



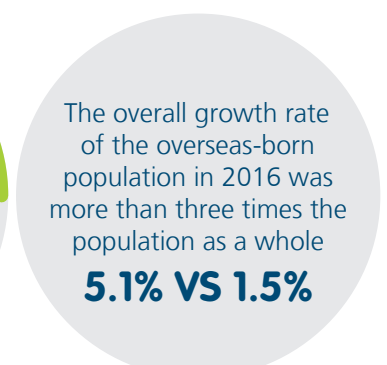
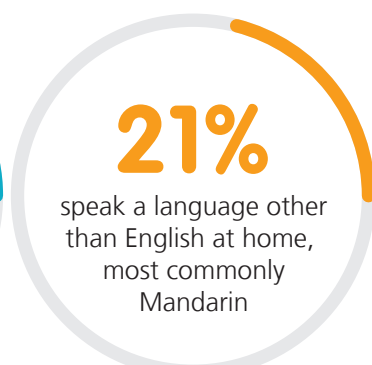
ACTIVITY PRIOR TO DROWNING



WAS ALCOHOL INVOLVED?



CHANGES IN THE AUSTRALIAN POPULATION²⁴



RECOMMENDATIONS



Promote, reinforce and encourage implementation of the action statements outlined in the *2018 Symposium on Addressing Drowning Among Multicultural Communities*.



Incorporate culturally diverse drowning perspectives into future Australian Water Safety strategies and drowning reports.



Promote stronger cross-sector collaboration to reduce fatal and non-fatal drowning among multicultural communities across Australia.



Ensure greater opportunities to increase water safety knowledge and skills are made available to high-risk populations.



Continue to advocate the value of learning swimming and water safety skills, and knowledge of drowning prevention among culturally diverse populations of all ages and communities.



Increase engagement with ethnic media to ensure that key messages are being disseminated effectively and in a culturally appropriate manner across multicultural communities.



Develop strategies to increase the cultural diversity of staff across the aquatic industry to reflect the local community.



Engage with tourism agencies and operators to increase water safety awareness and knowledge among overseas tourists.