



Royal Life Saving Society - Australia

ANNUAL REPORT 2012/2013

EVERYONE CAN BE A LIFESAVER



Royal Life Saving

ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY - AUSTRALIA

ABOUT ROYAL LIFE SAVING

Royal Life Saving is focused on reducing drowning and promoting healthy, active and skilled communities through innovative, reliable, evidence based advocacy; strong and effective partnerships, quality programs, products and services; underpinned by a cohesive and sustainable national organisation.

Royal Life Saving is a public benevolent institution (PBI) dedicated to reducing drowning and turning everyday people into everyday community lifesavers.

We achieve this through:

- Advocacy
- Education
- Training
- Health Promotion
- Aquatic Risk Management
- Community Development
- Research
- Media and Marketing
- Sport, Leadership and Participation
- International Networks

We are guided by the values of: Safety, Quality, Integrity and the Humanitarian tradition and have been serving the Australian community for over 119 years.

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ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY – AUSTRALIA

Patrons, Directors and Office Bearers

Patron

Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC,
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

National Board of Directors

Dianne Montalto ESM – President

President, Royal Life Saving Society Australia, 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.

Chief Justice Terence Higgins BA LLB AO – Deputy President

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

James Whiteside

Board Member, Royal Life Saving Society Australia, New South Wales. Appointed as a National Councillor in October 2005, and continued as a Director in April 2009.

Randall Cook B.Ed; Grad Dip Ed Management

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.

Alice McDonald B.Science; Grad Dip Ed

Board Member, Royal Life Saving Society Northern Territory. Alice joined the Board in April 2013 during absence of Randall Cook, and resigned upon his return in July 2013.

Leslie Mole JP

Board Member, 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.

Glenda Bowen-Pain AM BA; Dip Ed

Deputy President, Royal Life Saving Society, South Australia. Appointed as a Director in October 2010.

Geoffrey Wiczorski

Board Member, Royal Life Saving Society, Tasmania Branch. Appointed as a Director in July 2011.

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

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 14 years, and has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer, and Company Secretary in January 2013.

National Advisers

Education and Training
Dr Shayne Baker OAM

Sport
Gray Parkes

Medical
Professor John Pearn AO RFD

Legal
The Hon Chief Justice Terence Higgins AO

Finance and Audit
Anthony Bandle

State and Territory Member Organisation Executive

ACT	Sean Hodges (to May 2013) Cherry O'Connor (from May 2013)
NSW	David Macallister
NT	Floss Roberts
QLD	Michael Darben
SA	Tony Taylor
TAS	Julia Fassina (to September 2012) Christian Farley (from December 2012)
VIC	Sandra Vander Pal
WA	Alex McKenzie

Committees

National Sport Committee

NSW	Mark McLennan (to April 2013) Roz Grey (Felysia Konakoff – observer) (from April 2013)
NT	Karon Lamb
QLD	Ashley Gordon (to June 2013) Paul Barry (from June 2013)
SA	Glenda Bowen Pain AM
TAS	Chris Wright
VIC	Anni Gardiner
WA	TBA
NAT	Gray Parkes

Honours Committee

VIC	Dianne Montalto ESM (Chair)
QLD	Les Mole
QLD	John McClelland
SA	David Dewar
TAS	Alison McIntyre

International Life Saving Organisations

International Life Saving Federation (ILS)

President

Graham Ford (Australia)

Secretary General

Dr Harald Vervaecke, PhD (Belgium)

Committee Membership

Justin Scarr

Drowning Prevention Commissioner,
ILS Asia-Pacific Secretary General

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

HRH Prince Michael of Kent

Deputy Commonwealth President

Clive Holland

Commonwealth Secretary

Emma Harrison

Committee Membership

Dianne Montalto ESM

Commonwealth Management Committee

Justin Scarr

Business Development Committee

Amy Peden

Development Committee

Monique Sharp

Championships 2013 Committee
125th Anniversary Steering Committee

Emma MacMillan

Sport Development Committee
Championships 2013 Committee

Anni Gardiner

Sport Development Committee
Championships 2013 Committee

Gray Parkes

Championships 2013 Committee

Life Members

1995	Neville Bayfield (NSW)
1995	Gerald Brameld (QLD)
1998	Victor John Dennis (WA)
1998	Ian Mackie (NAT)
1998	Gwendolyn Welford (QLD)
1999	Alan B. Swinton (TAS)
2000	VJ Forde (SA)
2000	John McClelland (QLD)
2002	Heather MacGowan (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 (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 Brown (NSW)
2009	Rod Welford (QLD)
2010	The Hon Chief Justice Terence Higgins AO (ACT)
2010	Dianne Montalto ESM (VIC)
2010	Barbara Morgan OAM (VIC)
2010	Karen Freak (SA)
2011	Robyn Pryce-Jones (TAS)

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I begin by acknowledging the outstanding contribution that Greg McLennan has made to our organisation. Greg has served on the Royal Life Saving Society – Australia (RLSSA) Board, held the position of Sports Director and contributed to strong outcomes at the International Life Saving Federation and the RLSS Commonwealth levels. He also initiated a review of the RLSSA Constitution. It was wonderful that we were able to officially recognise his contribution and efforts at two official functions. Thank you Greg for your efforts.

I would like to thank the Australian Government for their commitment to assist Royal Life Saving with funding and support. This certainly shows a concern for the impact of fatal and non-fatal drowning across Australia and we value the assistance.

In October 2012, our longstanding Chief Executive Officer Rob Bradley resigned after 16 years in the role. Rob's contribution to the organisation was wide-ranging. He was instrumental in the formation of the Australian Water Safety Council, grew our corporate partnerships and extended our work through his roles at the International Life Saving Federation and RLSS Commonwealth.

The Board appointed a recruitment committee to find the right person to lead the organisation. After advertisements, interviews and discussions they recommended to the Board that Justin Scarr be appointed. Justin has been with the organisation for over 14 years and has an excellent understanding of Royal Life Saving. We welcome Justin to the position of Chief Executive Officer.

This year saw meetings being called specifically to allow members to have their say to the Board and share ideas. These have been very successful, enabling members to put forward their ideas and requests in a forum where all could have an input. More importantly, the Board also had the chance to hear just what the membership requires.

The Board has listened and engaged in making sure that the recommendations and requests that have been made have been discussed, information sought and then reports given at the next meeting or to State and Territories beforehand.

We now issue a communique after each Board meeting to all members and directors. This means that all relevant information is communicated to everyone, keeping us abreast of what is happening in National Office, Board level, and across the country.

I would again like to acknowledge the outstanding volunteer contribution that Gray Parkes, National Sport Adviser, the members of the National Sport Committee, event officials, coaches, managers and athletes make. Without this commitment the pool lifesaving sport competitions could not be conducted.

I attended the Australian Pool Life Saving Championships 2013 conducted at the Knox Grammar Aquatic Centre. More than 170 competitors from Interstate teams and clubs were involved. We witnessed 27 individual Pool Life Saving Championship records and 17 national records over three days. Congratulations to NSW who won the Interstate Overall Championships. This is the tenth time they have won, beating their close rivals QLD.

We must give appropriate recognition to our CEO, Justin Scarr and all National Staff, and the State and Territory Executives and Staff who are working hard to reduce drowning through the delivery of the National Training and Education Programs. They deliver nationwide Training in First Aid, Resuscitation, Pool Lifeguard, Bronze Medallion and Education with the Swim and Survive and Keep Watch programs along with a variety of Water Safety programs.

During the year I was able to visit some of our State and Territory offices and I would like to thank you for your hospitality. Thank you for your professionalism, commitment and passion and for the work that you give our organisation. You are outstanding ambassadors for Drowning Prevention. It is appreciated.

During the year we did several media campaigns to raise the awareness of drowning and the effect it has on families and communities highlighting the National Drowning Report, Swim and Survive and the Keep Watch program. From these, the media consistently referred to our National Drowning Report in relevant stories.

I am pleased to report that I attended the International Life Saving Federation meetings which were held in Adelaide and Belgium, and attended several teleconference meetings for the Asia Pacific Board. I was in attendance for the Commonwealth teleconference meetings on several occasions. These have been interesting and I have learnt more about World Lifesaving while representing Australia.

I also attended the International Life Saving Federation (ILS) Sport Championships in Adelaide. I have been involved in the ILS Women's Network and attended meetings. As one of the four organisers of this network we aim to raise the profile of women in ILS and promote gender equity.

In April I visited the Singapore Life Saving Society. We were given a tour of the Sentosa Family Aquatic Park as guests, joined the management for lunch and then visited the lifeguard services. It was good to be able to exchange information on the differences in awards and lifeguarding between the two countries.

I would like to thank all Board members for their attendance at meetings and the commitment they show to Royal Life Saving. I would also like to thank them for the support given to me as President during what proved to be a very busy and challenging year for us all.

In closing, we must always strive to continue our passion, commitment and dedication to Drowning Prevention, through the various areas that we are involved in, and in partnership with the States and Territory Members. This can be done by working and respecting each other for the contributions made and the knowledge and experience we hold. This will ensure that Royal Life Saving continues to be a peak body respected for our commitment to Drowning Prevention by the community, Government and the Aquatic Industry not only in Australia, but globally.

Yours in Lifesaving,
Dianne G. Montalto ESM
National President

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The 2012–13 year has been a successful one for Royal Life Saving with substantial progress made in many areas of drowning prevention policy and research, and through the programs and projects supported by the national office team and delivered by our Royal Life Saving colleagues across the country.

This is my first report as Chief Executive Officer. In January 2013, I was given the great privilege of leading the organisation, initially in an acting capacity, and later (August 2013) after an external recruitment process, being confirmed as Chief Executive Officer. The Board, in consultation with the Members set an ambitious set of tasks to strengthen collaboration, clarify our strategic focus and review the office operations.

This followed the resignation of Royal Life Saving's long-standing Chief Executive Officer, Rob Bradley, who after 16 years as CEO resigned to pursue a 'tree' change with family. Rob served the organisation well, as Chair of the Australian Water Safety Council, and in various international roles with Royal Life Saving Commonwealth and the International Life Saving Federation. He was responsible for securing several key sponsorships and guiding the Board through a major review of Governance. The Royal Life Saving Board, staff and volunteers wish him well in his future endeavours.

The Board has responded positively to the feedback of the Members and in the past year has been focused on providing more frequent opportunities for members, volunteers and executive staff to meet to work together. The Board commenced issuing communiques after each Board meeting and initiated a review of the Constitution. Each of these were important to ensure that we are well governed and remain well-connected to the Royal Life Saving membership.

The volunteer contribution of our National Advisers; Prof John Pearn AO RFD (Medical), Gray Parkes (Sport) and Dr Shayne Baker OAM (Education and Training) is substantial and greatly valued. The mentoring of our staff, volunteers and colleagues across the country, as well as representation of our collective interest in an expansive range of forums is impressive.

Royal Life Saving continues to receive strong support from the Australian Government for many of our drowning prevention objectives. Our team, and indeed the members, continue to provide robust, timely advice on key issues and implement the goals of the Australian Water Safety Strategy in communities across the country.

The period September – December 2012 was very busy in terms of media campaigning and advocacy. It commenced with the release of the National Drowning Report 2012 at Parliament House Canberra, and followed with a call for compulsory swimming and water safety lessons for all primary school aged children. Over 15,000 people signed an online petition and a number of representatives of Government and organisations joined in the debate of this important drowning prevention issue.

The theme of compulsory swimming and water safety was continued in January – February with a series of regional events with UNCLE TOBY'S ambassadors. It was great to get out into regional areas, to meet pool managers, lifeguards and instructors enjoying a day focused on water safety with local community members.

The focus in research was on the continued development of the National Fatal Drowning Database. This database now includes over ten years of fatal drowning cases, some cases with as many as 80 different variables. This has already allowed Royal Life Saving to investigate ten-year trends of drowning in people over the age of 55 years, and those drowning in inland waterways.

Advances have been made in pool fencing legislation across Australia in recent years. This is a key goal of our Keep Watch program, although we reinforce the importance of active adult supervision, CPR and water familiarisation. We thank PoolWerx for their support of the Keep Watch program over the past six years.

The Royal Life Saving reputation for running high quality events was extended by the conduct of the Australian Pool Life Saving Championships in January in Sydney. It is impossible to see how these events would be as successful without the tireless efforts of our volunteers and event management team.

We continue to work with the Australian Government through AusAID, our partners The Alliance for Safe Children (TASC), the Centre for Injury Prevention and Research – Bangladesh (CIPRB) and with international agencies to ensure that the impact of World Conference on Drowning Prevention 2011 and our other initiatives, result in an increase in drowning prevention efforts in Low and Middle Income Countries.

The operational team has worked extremely hard over the past year and is proud of our results. The following pages outline some of the key achievements, case studies, facts and figures. I wish to knowledge the work of Rhonda Groneman and Monique Sharp particularly for their leadership support of me and all other staff.

We thank all our program partners and contributors to the networks, committees and projects. I acknowledge the mutual respect and support provided by the Executive Leadership Team, formerly named the Executive Directors Network.

Finally I acknowledge the work of the President, Deputy President, our various Board committees and the Board. It has been a busy and challenging year, and I'm confident that we can build on past success in an increasingly cohesive and collaborative manner.

Justin Scarr
Chief Executive Officer

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2012–15

Positioning Statement/Statement of Purpose

Royal Life Saving is focused on reducing drowning and promoting healthy, active and skilled communities through innovative, reliable, evidence based advocacy; strong and effective partnerships, quality programs, products and services; underpinned by a cohesive and sustainable national organisation.

Organisational Overview

Royal Life Saving is a public benevolent institution (PBI) dedicated to reducing drowning and turning everyday people into everyday community lifesavers.

We achieve this through: Advocacy, Education, Training, Health Promotion, Aquatic Risk Management, Community Development, Research, Sport, Leadership and Participation, and International Networks.

Our guiding values: Safety, Quality, Integrity, Humanitarian tradition



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 2013

	2013	2012
Income	3,686,902	4,010,750
Fundraising	637,490	871,327
Other income	14,372	7,246
Total Revenue	\$4,338,764	\$4,889,323
Expenses		
Management and administration	857,227	824,733
Fundraising	369,211	447,009
Media and promotional expenses	338,968	428,494
Programs and program support	2,657,829	2,988,272
Provision for doubtful debts	15,000	20,000
Amortisation and Depreciation	72,054	62,476
Total Expenses	\$4,310,339	\$4,770,984
Net Profit for the year	\$28,425	\$118,339
Other Comprehensive Income	0	0
Total Comprehensive Income attributable to members of RLSSA	\$28,425	\$118,339

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as at 30 June 2013

	2013	2012
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,818,918	1,398,929
Trade and other receivables	585,731	544,420
Inventories	227,132	178,057
Other	30,770	41,907
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$2,662,551	\$2,163,313
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	1,972,866	2,069,222
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	\$1,972,866	\$2,069,222
TOTAL ASSETS	\$4,635,417	\$4,232,535
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors and borrowings	2,517,090	2,105,597
Provisions	585,372	605,313
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$3,102,462	\$2,710,910
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors and borrowings	9,735	26,830
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$9,735	\$26,830
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$3,112,197	\$2,737,740
NET ASSETS	\$1,523,221	\$1,494,795
RETAINED FUNDS		
Retained surplus	987,445	959,019
Asset revaluation reserve	535,776	535,776
TOTAL RETAINED FUNDS	1,523,221	\$1,494,795

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



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 drowning deaths and near-drownings that occur in Australia each year.

Our advocates are lifesavers.

Our staff actively participated in national and international water safety forums and engaged with other community stakeholders who were working to prevent drowning. In the past year we have engaged in product testing for new swimming aids, presented at the National Conference for the Australian Council for the Teaching of Swimming and Water Safety (AUSTSWIM) and provided expert witness testimony and advice to coronial inquests. 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
- Personal Flotation Devices

Royal Life Saving volunteers and staff sit on a range of boards and advisory panels of various not-for-profit organisations. These organisations include the Australian Council for the Teaching of Swimming and Water Safety (AUSTSWIM), Australian Amusements Leisure and Recreation Association, Service Skills Australia and the Australian Resuscitation Council.

Key media campaigns during 2012/13 included:

- **Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report** which provided insights into who, where, when and how people drowned in Australian waterways over the past year. (Refer to page 40 for full details)
- **Royal Life Saving online petition to ensure that 'No Child Should Miss Out on Learning to Swim.'** Following on from the previous year's media activity – 'Half a million young Australians at risk of drowning'; Royal Life Saving research revealed there was a 25% increase in drowning in young adults aged 15-24 over the past decade. Royal Life Saving believes that the rapid increase is undeniably linked to a fall in the swimming and water safety skills of Australian children over the past ten years. The media campaign raised community awareness about the flow-on effect of deficiencies in personal survival, basic rescue and water safety skills. (Refer to page 17 for full details)
- **Royal Life Saving Keep Watch Home Pool Safety campaign for 2012** highlighted that 330 Australian children under the age of five drowned from 2002/03 – 2011/12. Almost half of those children drowned in a home swimming pool. The campaign stressed the importance of ensuring the home pool environment is safe for children. To make it easier for pool owners to know what safety features they should install and check regularly, Royal Life Saving released a free Home Pool Safety App which can be easily download from the App Store. (Refer to page 28 for full details)

Community Keep Watch Ambassadors

Drowning is one of the leading causes of death in children 0–4 years of age. In the past eleven financial years (2002/03 to 2012/13) 359 children under the age of five drowned in Australia.

Keep Watch aims to prevent drowning deaths of children aged under five in all aquatic locations. Royal Life Saving has more than 160 community Keep Watch Ambassadors who include members of Federal, State and Territory Parliaments. Ambassadors promote water safety by distributing information on preventing toddler drowning within their local community. Royal Life Saving thanks the ambassadors for their ongoing support.

For nearly 20 years Keep Watch has been educating Australian parents and carers on how to keep their children safe when in, on, or around water.

Keep Watch Ambassador Sam Riley, Olympic swimmer and mother of three young boys, understands the need for water safety education to combat the tragic drowning rates in Australia. "I am very proud to be working in partnership with Royal Life Saving as the Ambassador for the Keep Watch Program," she said.

Since 2001, Sam Riley has been the public face of the Keep Watch campaign. Sam donates many hours of her time each year to helping protect Australian children from drowning and we thank her for her very generous support. During 2012/13 Sam was actively involved in promoting the Home Pool Safety Campaign being interviewed across both National TV and Radio Networks focusing on the importance of the Keep Watch messages and the new Home Pool Safety App.

Below: Keep Watch Ambassador Sam Riley.



Australian Water Safety Strategy 2012-15: Towards a nation free from drowning

Royal Life Saving is working hard to achieve the important goal of a 50% reduction in drowning by the year 2020.

The Australian Water Safety Strategy 2012-15 (AWSS 2012-15) continues to align the industry towards achieving a 50% reduction in drowning by the year 2020 by focusing efforts on key priority areas.

The progress in 2013 against the goal areas of the AWSS 2012-15 are reported below.

Progress of AWSS 2012-15 Goals and Target Reductions

AWSS 2012-15 Goal Areas	Drowning Deaths in 2012/13		AWSS 2012-15 Target by 2020	Progress
	Children 0-4 years	Children 5-14 years		
1. Reduce drowning deaths in children aged 0-14 years	Children 0-4 years	31	17	Of High Concern
	Children 5-14 years	9	8	On Track
2. Reduce drowning deaths in young people aged 15-24		26	18	Of Some Concern
3. Reduce drowning deaths in people aged 55+		114	51	Of High Concern
4. Reduce drowning deaths in inland waterways		99	54	Of High Concern
5. Reduce surf beach drowning deaths		65	21	Of High Concern

Please note: A drowning death could be included in more than one goal area in the table above.



The Australian Water Safety Strategy 2012-15 (AWSS 2012-15) can be downloaded from www.watersafety.com.au



04

NSW Pool Register – Be Pool Safe

Royal Life Saving NSW CEO David Macallister called on all NSW backyard pool owners to “Be Pool Safe” and sign up to the NSW Swimming Pool Register, which was launched on April 29, 2013.

The campaign, which is a collaboration between Royal Life Saving NSW and the NSW Government, is about getting information into the hands of pool owners.

As part of the “Be Pool Safe” campaign all 152 councils across NSW received an information pack and support resources.

“The statistics speak for themselves. In the past ten years, 67 children aged 0 to 4 have drowned in NSW swimming pools,” Mr Macallister said.

Backyard swimming pools remain the most common location for both drowning death and injury in children under five in NSW.



The "Be Pool Safe" campaign from Royal Life Saving NSW urges all pool owners across NSW to help tackle head on the terrible toll of child drowning.

Pool Owners are asked to spend just three minutes registering their pool for free online at: www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au

"It is critical all pool owners register their pools so councils and water safety educators can more effectively communicate with pool owners to try and halt drownings," Mr Macallister said.

"There are over 300,000 pools across NSW. Royal Life Saving NSW believes that, in a number of areas, as many as one in two pools simply doesn't meet safety standards"

NSW Government - Division of Local Government has useful resources online for both local councils and pool owners, at www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au including:

- Circular to Councils - Circular No.13-20 NSW Swimming Pool Register
- Question and Answers
- Sample Pool Registration Form for Councils
- Pool Self-Assessment Checklists

Royal Life Saving NSW as part of "Be Pool Safe" www.bepoolsafe.com.au also has a variety of useful resources online to assist pool owners, including videos and fact sheets for the NSW Swimming Pool Register and the Keep Watch program in the following 16 languages: English / Arabic / Chinese (Traditional) / Chinese (Simplified) / Croatian / Filipino / Greek / Hindi / Indonesian / Italian / Korean / Macedonian / Serbian / Spanish / Turkish / Vietnamese

- 01 Local Government Minister Don Page and David Macallister, CEO Royal Life Saving NSW
- 02 Swimming Pool Fence Campaign Shot
- 03 "Be Pool Safe" Swimming Pool Register Video
- 04 "Be Pool Safe" Water Awareness Video
- 05 Local Government Minister Don Page and David Macallister, CEO Royal Life Saving NSW
- 06 "Be Pool Safe" logo



EDUCATION

Royal Life Saving's water safety education programs are designed so all Australians can 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'.

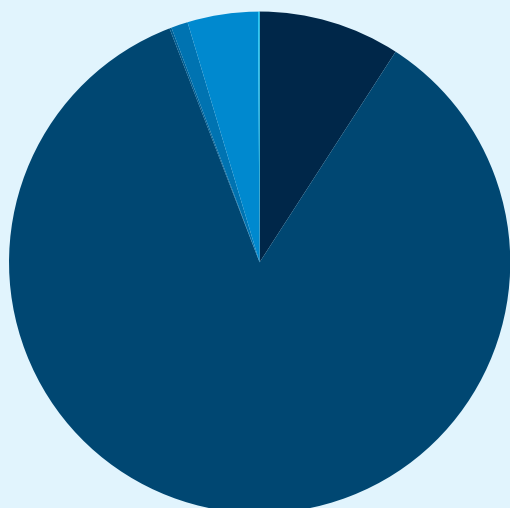
The range of programs allows individuals to continually develop their skills and knowledge as they move through different life stages, reflecting the unique challenges that are specific to each age group. These challenges include: water familiarisation for young children, foundation skills for primary 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 (3–5yrs)
 - Courage (5–14yrs)
- Water Smart
- Bronze Medallion
- Grey Medallion

Education Awards

630,132 Awards Issued by Royal Life Saving in 2012–2013



- Water Safety Education Classroom - 57,530 (9.1%)
- Swim and Survive - 535,698 (85.0%)
- Junior Lifeguard Club Participants - 814 (0.1%)
- Rescue Strand - 6,810 (1.1%)
- Bronze - 28,636 (4.5%)
- Adv Lifesaving - 80 (0.01%)
- Grey Medallion - 564 (0.09%)

Water Smart

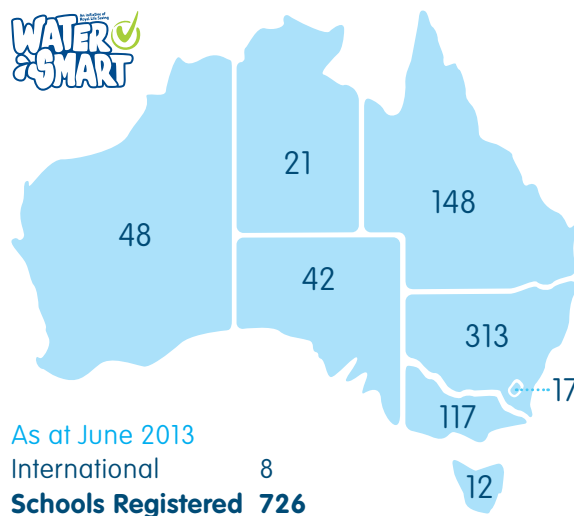
Water Smart is a water safety education program that is being conducted in school classrooms and playgrounds across Australia. There are two components to the program:

Water Smart Education Toolkit

The Toolkit is a comprehensive resource for schools to teach a unit of water safety. Curriculum materials are available for all students from the Foundation year to Year 10. Unit outlines with activity descriptors, teacher notes, activity sheets in PDF and SMART Notebook formats, water safety tips, posters and video clips are available.

Access is free. Schools and community groups register on the schools zone of the Swim and Survive website (www.swimandsurvive.com.au) by completing an online form. Via email, they receive personalised login details to gain access to the resources.

The numbers of registered schools has steadily increased over the past financial year with a total of 726 schools registered with the State/Territory breakdown below.



Water Smart Award

The Water Smart Award is a fantastic initiative to educate young Australians on the principles of water safety knowledge, out-of-water rescues and an introduction to resuscitation.

This practical and easy-to-implement award can be conducted in the classroom or playground at school and is suitable for students from Year 4 to Year 6. The Water Smart Award focuses on:

- Water safety knowledge
- Introduction to resuscitation principles
- Basic reach and throw rescue techniques

Teachers, swim instructors and community leaders can deliver the Water Smart Award using the teacher's guide to facilitate learning.

Swim and Survive

Swim and Survive is national program that seeks to increase swimming and water safety skills of Australian children to prevent drowning and increase participation in safe aquatic activity. The Swim and Survive program has been taught to Australian children for 30 years in pools, schools and other aquatic locations across the country by qualified swimming and water safety instructors.

Swim and Survive ensures the essential components of personal survival and water safety are provided, in addition to developing strong and effective swimming techniques.

Wonder, Courage and Active have been chosen as the Swim and Survive program titles to reflect the hopes and aspirations of children and families as they embark on a lifetime of fun and safety in the water.

This year, our key activities have focused on the development and growth of the Swim and Survive program and strengthening relationships with our valued Swim and Survive partner facilities and schools.

UNCLE TOBYS has continued to support the Swim and Survive program and help raise the importance of swimming and water safety education with parents and carers, by providing opportunities to discuss key water safety issues and promote drowning prevention strategies to local communities.

Between 2012 and 2015, UNCLE TOBYS will donate a further \$500,000 to Royal Life Saving. These funds have been earmarked for the important task of increasing awareness and boosting water safety education.

Swim and Survive Partners

Three hundred swim schools throughout Australia have registered for partnership on the Swim and Survive website to date, which is an increase of one hundred new registrations in the past year.

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.

Registered and approved Swim and Survive partners are exclusively promoted on the Royal Life Saving Swim School Locator. Swim and Survive partners also have access to a number of supporting resources that assist swim schools to implement and deliver a quality swimming and water safety program.

Website – www.swimandsurvive.com.au

The Swim and Survive website has seen substantial growth in the number of new visitors seeking information about the Swim and Survive program and water safety activities for children.

	2011/12	2012/13
No. of Visits	33,939	53,316
No. of Unique Visitors	25,763	40,297
No. of Page Views	161,613	213,113
Pages per Visit	4.76	4.00
Average Visit Duration	00:04:17	00:03:26
Top 5 pages	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Swim and Survive Homepage 2. Swim and Survive Kids Zone (LP) 3. Swim and Survive Program Information 4. Games Zone Landing Page (Kids Zone) 5. Water Safety Landing Page (Kids Zone) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Swim and Survive Homepage 2. Swim and Survive Kids Zone (LP) 3. Swim and Survive Program Information 4. Swim and Survive Games Zone Landing Page (Kids Zone) 5. Swim and Survive Water Safety Colouring-In Posters Landing Page (Kids Zone)



Media Campaign

ONLINE PETITION -

'No Child Should Miss Out on Learning to Swim.'

Following on from the previous year's media activity – 'Half a million young Australians at risk of drowning'; Royal Life Saving research revealed there was a 25% increase in drowning in young adults aged 15-24 over the past decade. 86% percent of these drowning deaths were males, with many drowning while swimming, boating or fishing with friends in the nation's rivers, dams and at beaches.

Royal Life Saving believes this rapid increase in drowning deaths is undeniably linked to a fall in the swimming and water safety skills of Australian children over the past ten years. The media campaign raised community awareness about the flow-on effect of deficiencies in personal survival, basic rescue and water safety skills.

Call to Action Sign the Online Petition

Royal Life Saving, with the support of UNCLE TOBYS, called on all Australians to sign an online petition to pledge their support that 'No Child Should Miss Out on Learning to Swim and Survive' with compulsory swimming and water safety lessons in Australian primary schools.



Additional Support – Swim and Survive Fund

An additional call for support was made for online donations for the Swim and Survive Fund to help parents struggling with the financial burden of lessons and to raise funds for urgently needed programs targeting rural, Indigenous and multicultural communities.

Significant media support was generated from the campaign across Australia including Sky News, ABC24, NBN, Channel 7, 9 and 10 News. The Daily Telegraph conducted an online poll - 'Should swimming lessons be mandatory in public schools?' which contributed 7,542 votes in favor (90.93%) and 752 votes against (9.07%) mandatory swimming lessons in public schools.

Key Petition Milestones:

- Signatures Collected on Change.org 15,050 (22 Oct 2012 – 30 June 2013)
- Signatures Collected Offline 810 (across five Sam Riley Swim Schools)
- Daily Telegraph Online Poll 7,542 votes
- **TOTAL = 23,402 signatures/votes**

The community were highly engaged and passionate about the issue, providing valuable feedback and support for the campaign. Over 4,820 comments were received from 22 October 2012 to 30 June 2013.

I learnt to swim in primary school and have spent a lot of my life around water. Australian life is spent around the water, whether that be the ocean, pool or a creek and it is both dangerous and unfair for some children not to feel safe in these environments.

Australia has the good fortune to be surrounded by water. Our children should be safe and be able to enjoy it without fear or harm.

Being a paramedic I have seen too many drownings and believe we as a society need to prepare children in Australia to be water safe.

I am concerned for children in high school who are not confident in water and how unaware of the dangers they are. Lessons provide confidence and teach water safety.

All children across Australia deserve the opportunity to learn to swim regardless of their family's financial or cultural background or where they live. Let's keep our children safe.

As a kid I almost drowned in our swimming pool. Had I not been taught at an early age the basics of swimming, I would not be here today.

A child's life is very precious, drowning is permanent. Learning to swim is a necessity and should be compulsory in every school.

One of my friends recently lost a child who drowned in the backyard pool. There is nothing worse than burying a three-year-old for something that was completely avoidable. I think water awareness and survival should be taught as early as possible. I just had my first swimming lesson for my six-month-old. I can't bring my friend's child back, but hopefully I can prevent the same fate for my own children.

53% of children at my school say they either cannot swim, or could not swim 25 metres. It really is crucial to saving lives and teaching people how to enjoy water safely. In the last ten years, I have known three people who have drowned.

This is about saving lives and enhancing confidence and skills around water, which will have a positive impact throughout a child's life.

The cost of a child learning to swim is far outweighed by the cost of the flow-on effect a drowning has on the families and the communities surrounding them.

Education and skills are the best form of prevention. If children know the dangers and understand why it's a danger they will be more vigilant.

SWIM KIDS Operation 10,000

Send-A-Swim and Save-A-Life (17 to 24 February 2013)

Every year, approximately 50,000 Australian children leave primary school unable to swim – one in every five students. The minimum water safety standard is for a child to be able to swim 50m and to tread water for two minutes, and it is this minimum standard that so many children are unable to meet.

The reasons are varied but we know that many of these children come from families that are experiencing financial hardship, live in regional or remote areas where access to lessons or pools is prohibitive, or come from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds where swimming and water safety are not significant.

Royal Life Saving and partner UNCLE TOBYS believe that every child should know how to swim. Together they launched Swim Kids Operation 10,000 – an initiative that aims to fully fund or subsidise 10,000 swimming and water safety lessons.

Joining forces with Olympic swimming stars and UNCLE TOBYS Ambassadors Eamon Sullivan, Cate and Bronte Campbell, Emily Seebohm, James Roberts and Paralympic swimming star Matt Cowdrey, each Ambassador spent 2,000 minutes living at one of five pools around Australia. The week-long campaign kicked off on Sunday 17 February 2013 and went through until Sunday 24 February 2013.

Location Schedule

Sunday 17 February

Corowa Swimming Pool, Corowa, NSW
Eamon Sullivan

Monday 18 February

Palm Beach Aquatic Centre, Gold Coast, QLD
Emily Seebohm

Wednesday 20 February

Whitlam Leisure Centre, Liverpool, NSW
James Roberts

Thursday 21 February

Bathurst Aquatic Centre, Bathurst, NSW
Cate & Bronte Campbell

Friday 22 February

Noarlunga Leisure Centre, Adelaide, SA
Matt Cowdrey

Speaking at the SWIM KIDS Operation 10,000 launch in Corowa, regional NSW, UNCLE TOBYS Ambassador Eamon Sullivan said...

“Every Australian child deserves the opportunity to learn to swim, regardless of their circumstances or background. It’s about learning valuable swimming and water safety skills and having the knowledge to enjoy the water safely.”



05

06

- 01 UNCLE TOBYS Ambassadors Cate and Bronte Campbell with Royal Life Saving Lochie the Lifeguard and Joseph, Bathurst Aquatic Centre, Bathurst, NSW
- 02 TODAY Show – Swim Kids Operation 10,000 with Stevie Jacobs and Joseph, Bathurst Aquatic Centre, Bathurst, NSW
- 03 TODAY Show – Swim Kids Operation 10,000 with Stevie Jacobs, UNCLE TOBYS Ambassadors Cate and Bronte Campbell, Bathurst Aquatic Centre, Bathurst, NSW
- 04 UNCLE TOBYS Ambassadors Eamon Sullivan with students from Wahgunyah Primary School, Corowa Swimming Pool, Corowa, NSW
- 05 UNCLE TOBYS Ambassador Matt Cowdrey at Noarlunga Leisure Centre, Adelaide, SA
- 06 UNCLE TOBYS Ambassador Emily Seebohm with Royal Life Saving Society QLD Team members Susan Devlin, Amanda Kersten and Helen Horner, Palm Beach Aquatic Centre, Gold Coast, QLD
- 07 UNCLE TOBYS Ambassadors James Roberts - Whitlam Leisure Centre, Liverpool, NSW
- 08 Swim and Survive Fund success story Joseph

02



03



07



08

Joseph's Story

Thanks to Royal Life Saving and UNCLE TOBYS, Joseph now has a lifetime of safe swimming and fun ahead of him. Joseph was one of those less fortunate children who missed out on learning to swim. Joseph lives with his father in rural NSW and like many on the land, they were doing it tough.

Thanks to Operation 10,000, Joseph has completed a course of swimming and water safety lessons and now can't stay out of the water.



Watch the short documentary on Joseph's wonderful journey at www.swimkids.com.au

Swim and Survive in Action

Fitzroy Crossing Remote Pool

Interview with Adele Caporn

What do you do at Royal Life Saving?

I am employed by RLSSWA at the Fitzroy Crossing Remote Pool and have been busy with the Swim and Survive lessons this term. We were really pleased this term, with 550 children participating in Swim and Survive lessons.

During the term, the children from Fitzroy Valley School and other local community schools took part in a 2 week Swim and Survive Program.

The aim of the program is not to only increase children's swimming and water safety skills but prepare them to safely have fun playing water polo, doing competitive swimming and or taking part in pool lifesaving activities.



GREY MEDALLION

Unfortunately, older Australians (aged 55 and over) are a significant proportion of the overall drowning deaths in Australia.

As the population ages, the number of deaths in this age group continues to increase. The Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report for 2013 shows 114 older Australians drowned in 2012/13, accounting for 39% of all drowning deaths. In this age group, the highest number of drowning deaths was recorded at beaches, with 31 people losing their lives. 19 older Australians drowned in lakes / dams / lagoons, a sharp increase on previous years.

The Grey Medallion program is a water safety and lifesaving skills initiative for older adults. It aims to encourage a healthy, independent and active lifestyle through the development of essential skills in order to participate in aquatic recreation activities safely.

This practical program provides older adults with personal survival techniques, improved swimming skills, the ability to deal with emergency situations and a thorough understanding of water safety in order to reduce the likelihood of drowning.



Case Study:

The Grey Medallion Program in New South Wales during 2012/13

Through the support of the NSW Government, local councils and local clubs, Royal Life Saving NSW has been able to implement a number of Grey Medallion programs during 2012/2013 across NSW.

RLS NSW has had a positive response to the Grey Medallion Program. A number of aquatic facilities are getting behind the initiative and offering programs to their communities.

"The Royal Life Saving Grey Medallion program is delivered in a flexible style and provides the Over 55's with an opportunity to gain a greater understanding of their personal water safety skills and knowledge. It's a great opportunity to exercise and have fun while learning skills that may one day save a life."

Carol, Enfield Olympic Swimming Pool.

Participants who have been a part of the Grey Medallion experience have found the program to be very useful in not only learning how to keep themselves safe but others as well. They have enjoyed coming along to the program, creating new friendships and learning together. We have had individuals who have not been in the water for some time, individuals who have some skills and others who swim regularly but wanted to learn more about lifesaving skills, it really is a program that can be tailored to the needs of the group.

"The program covers the everyday basics of water activities and teaches seniors about essential skills needed to participate safely in aquatic activities"

Pam, 75 years – Fairfield Leisure Centre

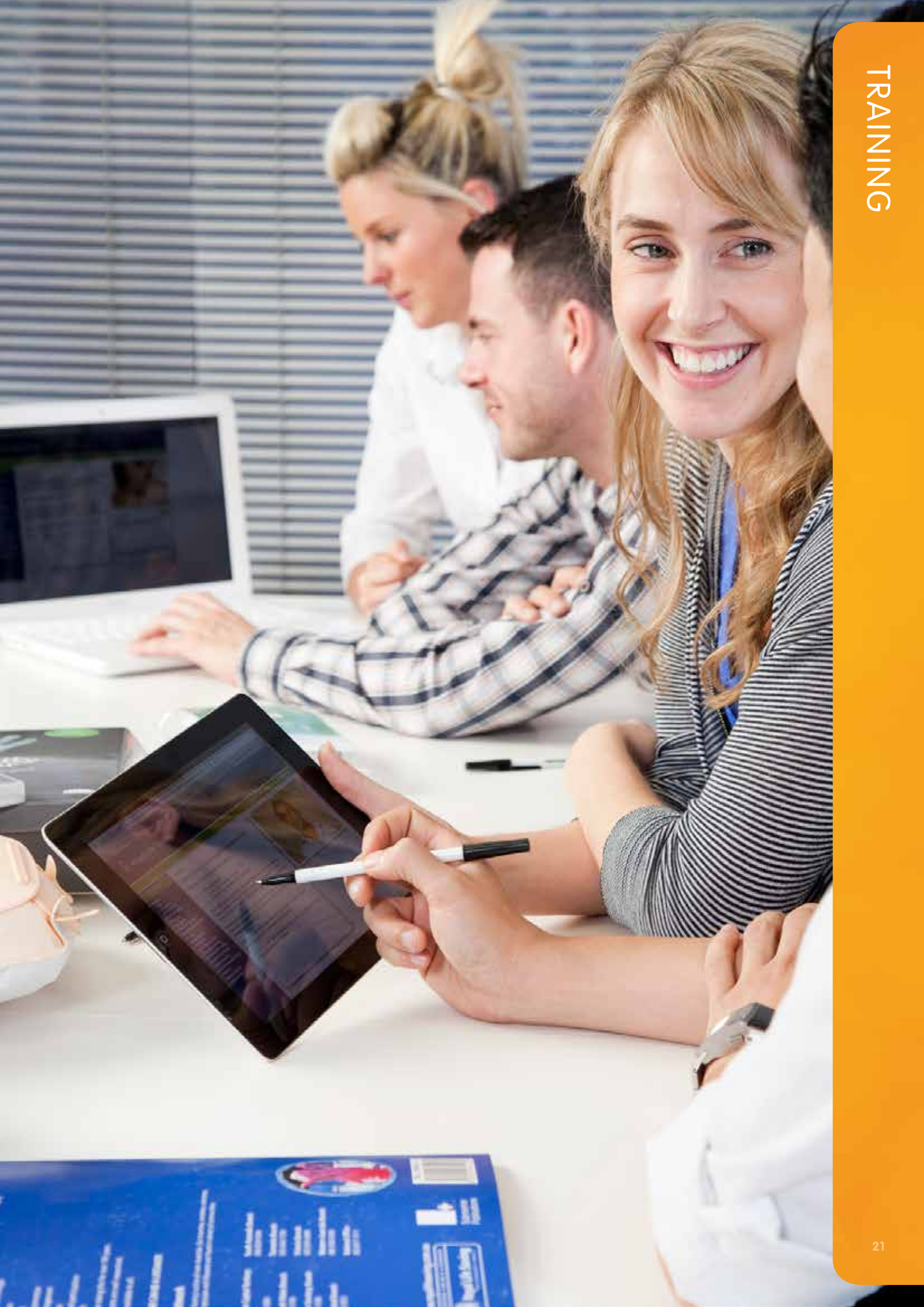
"This is to thank you and to show our utmost appreciation for your professional work in helping us and training us in the Grey Medallion Program. Your training, clear explanations, instruction, presentation and most of all caring attitude is of top quality and excellence. We loved it and have benefitted from it. We also heard from other participants that they enjoyed the program and found it useful, helpful and a valuable experience!"

**Lily, 64 years & Joseph 67 years
– North Sydney Olympic Pool**

"This course is beneficial to any grandparent and all seniors should get involved in this fantastic initiative."

Andrew, 59 years – Warringah Aquatic Centre

Through the support of the NSW Government and local clubs, a further 50 programs will be implemented over the next 12 months, as we work towards a reduction in drowning rates amongst older Australians.



TRAINING

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

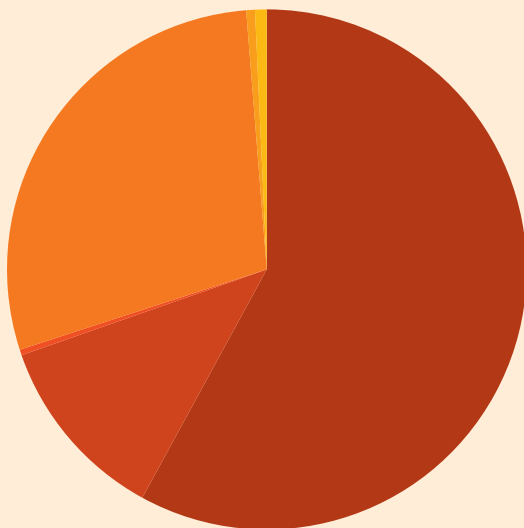
While the principles have not changed, we are now training people to use these lifesaving skills in a wide range of workplaces and communities.

Our key training programs include:

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

Training Awards

226,403 Awards Issued by Royal Life Saving in 2012–2013



- Resuscitation - 131,213 (58.0%)
- Pool Lifeguard - 26,477 (11.7%)
- Pool Operations - 797 (0.4%)
- First Aid - 65,042 (28.7%)
- Instructor/Trainer Assessor - 1,223 (0.5%)
- AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety - 1,651 (0.7%)

Vocational Education & Training (VET)

The 2012/13 year in VET was both exciting and varied, with new proposals and changes from the national regulator, the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA). In response to these changes, and in keeping with our commitment to high-quality and consistent training programs, Royal Life Saving introduced a representative committee dedicated to VET.

VET Committee Members

Cherry O'Connor – ACT	Anthony Cottee – NSW
Floss Roberts – NT	Michael Darben – QLD
Tony Taylor – SA	Tracey Parry – TAS
Aaron Tabone – VIC	Ian Brown – WA

This committee, through the development of a Vocational Training Capacity Plan, enabled Royal Life Saving: to be innovative and adaptive to our customers' changing needs; to support the ongoing growth of our organisation; to represent industry best practice; and to be consistent with our longstanding commitment to saving lives and support safe aquatic activities.

Through the improved Training Plan, the committee will continue to achieve the following objectives:

1. To strengthen the quality compliance management systems at Royal Life Saving Registered Training Organisations (RTO's)
2. To develop and implement strategies to increase effective and efficient training administration systems
3. To facilitate proactive training-focused marketing and business development activities
4. To develop quality, industry leading, innovative and cost-effective training resources
5. To foster strong training governance both nationally and across each State and Territory Member Organisation (STMO)

The outcome of this so far has been a vast increase in compliance across the VET departments in each State and Territory Member Organisation. We are looking forward to this continued and progressive improvement to our training departments in partnership with all stakeholders.

The commitment to facilitate a more flexible learning environment has led to the development of a number of e-learning training projects. These will launch in 2013/14.

Our website has been redeveloped, so the national training resource pool and all shared State and Territory Member Organisation compliance support is now fully functional. All training departments can now access information related to audit and compliance, learning and assessment resources and general directions distributed by ASQA at their convenience.

Through the additional functionality of the website, we have seen a substantial improvement to the services provided to our customers and partners for all of our training programs. The website provides information and a direct portal to search for training courses, with the extra benefit of leading customers directly to the on-line booking system.



“One day I watched my mum perform first aid on someone who’d had a stroke,” said Stephanie, a student from Sydney.

“I realised that if I was ever faced with the same situation, I’d want to know what to do.”

Watching her mum give first aid assistance was all the inspiration Stephanie needed.

Everyday Lifesavers

Stephanie’s incident reinforces Royal Life Saving’s belief that ‘Everyone can be a lifesaver’. At any time, in any place, any one of us can find ourselves in an emergency situation.

It happened to Stephanie’s mum but thankfully, because of her training, she was able to quickly and confidently give first aid assistance. And hers is just one of many stories we hear about every year.

At Royal Life Saving our focus is keeping people safe when they are in, on, or near the water. But we also know that first aid and CPR skills know no boundaries, something Kim Ballingal can attest to.

One morning Kim was simply driving to work. Minutes later he was crouched by the side of a road resuscitating a fellow driver who had collapsed at the wheel.

Dale and Chloe Holmes also understand. Minutes after hearing a frantic knock on their door at 2am, they were performing CPR on their neighbour who had stopped breathing.

The people assisted by Stephanie’s mum, Kim Ballingal and Dale and Chloe Holmes are well aware of the importance of having people in the community with first aid training. It is the same reason why we would like to encourage everyone to enrol in a first aid course or update their existing skills.

Royal Life Saving conducts First Aid courses throughout Australia including ‘First Aid in a Box’, a course which can be done largely online and in your own time.

Stephanie recently completed a Royal Life Saving first aid course. She now knows that if she is ever faced with an emergency situation, she will know what to do. And those around her will be just that little bit safer. Everyone can be a lifesaver.

Recognising ‘Everyday Lifesavers’

Royal Life Saving Society - Australia is committed to recognising the efforts of its many dedicated members and volunteers. Their service can be recognised by the National Board of Directors through the use of the Commonwealth and Australian Honours Award Systems or by the individual States and Territory Member Organisations.

In 2012/13 Life Saving Victoria (LSV) recognised some outstanding contributions by ordinary people from all walks of life, who have become ‘Everyday Lifesavers’.

Examples of these actions include LSV staff member Bruce Andrew, who performed CPR when a man collapsed in front of him at his local shopping centre, LSV Sports Education Development Australia (SEDA) students who provided first aid assistance to a man who collapsed at Southern Cross station, and students who have applied learnings from recent LSV school visits to save lives in an everyday situation.



Watch the short interview with ‘Community Lifesaver’ Stephanie at [youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust](https://www.youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust)

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 to a victim of illness or injury 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 Cardio Pulmonary 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.

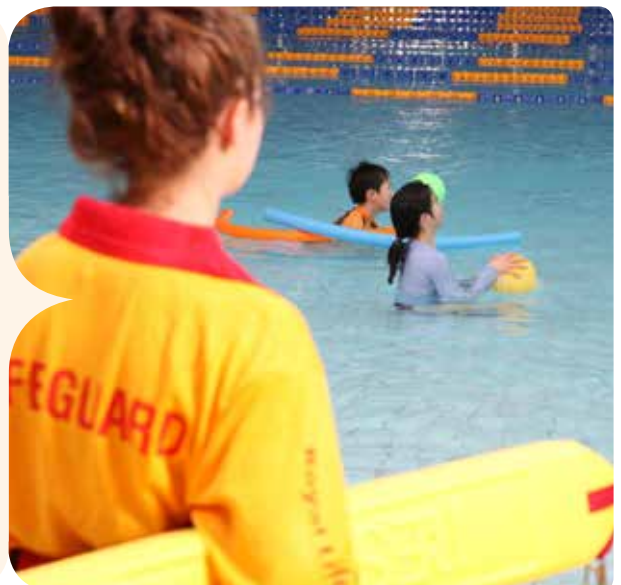


Pool Lifeguard

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.

Royal Life Saving provides further professional development courses and opportunities, building a stronger aquatics industry.



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

AUSTSWIM has developed quality aquatic education program for those wishing to enter the aquatic industry as a teacher of swimming and water safety™. The AUSTSWIM 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 new programs that Royal Life Saving will be offering 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 water-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 variety of resources and sub-programs targeting parents and carers that are designed for specific locations such as bath time, the farm and public pools.

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 all children under the age of five are safe when in, on, or around water.

The Keep Watch website (www.keepwatch.com.au) provides an invaluable source of information for parents/carers, grandparents, child care workers, swim teachers, community health workers and others interested in preventing child drowning. The website includes information on all the resources available including a series of fact sheets available to download and print.

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

The 27 fact sheets cover a range of topics from the four Keep Watch actions of: Supervise, Restrict Access, Water Awareness and Resuscitation; to farm water safety, water safety around the home and watercraft safety.

The following Keep Watch resources were distributed across Australia during the past year to support Keep Watch:

- 110,000 Keep Watch Fridge Magnets
- 100,000 Keep Watch Brochures
- 60,000 Keep Watch @ The Farm Brochures
- 3,000 Close the Gate Signs
- 60,000 Keep Watch @ Bath Time Brochures
- 5,000 Keep Watch @ Bath Time Tap Hangers
- 10,000 Home Pool Safety Checklists
- 4,000 A2 / 4,000 A3 Keep Watch Posters
- 1,000 Keep Watch Information Manuals

Keep Watch Websites

The Keep Watch and Home Pool Safety websites (www.keepwatch.com.au / www.homepoolsafety.com.au) provide an invaluable source of information on drowning prevention strategies and water safety tips.

During 2012/13 there were 42,589 website page views.

Keep Watch Home Pool Safety App

Royal Life Saving released, in conjunction with PoolWerx, the Home Pool Safety App for the iPhone and iPad in November 2012. This unique, free application has been specifically designed to assist people to take the hassle out of ensuring a home pool is as safe as possible.

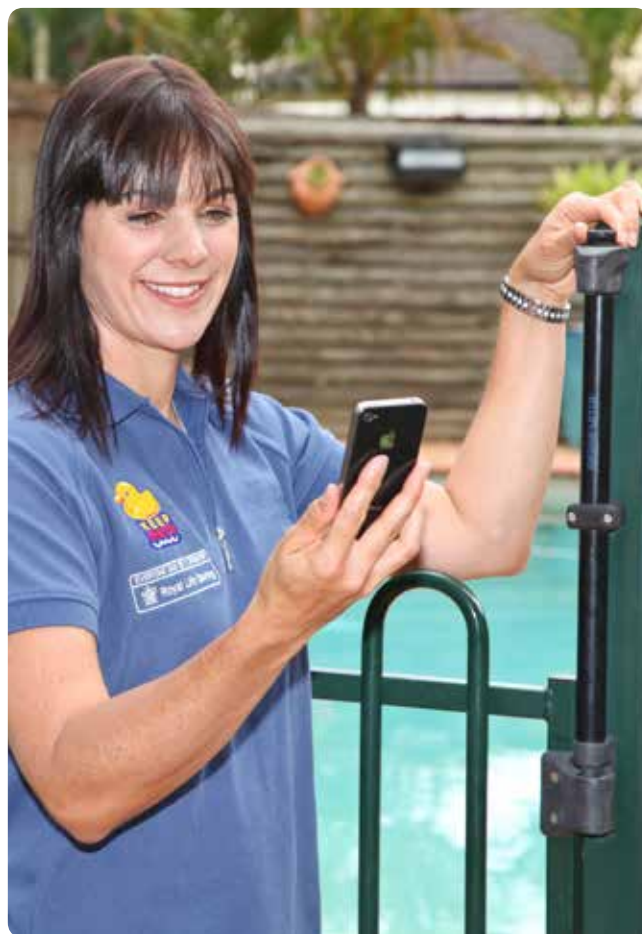
Royal Life Saving research shows 359 children under the age of five drowned in Australia between 2002/03 and 2012/13. Nearly half of those children drowned in a home swimming pool. Child drowning and injury is a major danger for all pool owners. Fences, gates, chemicals and signage all impact on the safety of children.

Standards and regulations can be a headache, and non-compliance can lead to expensive fines. To help make life easier for home pool owners, the Home Pool Safety App has an interactive checklist, so you can spot-check your own pool.

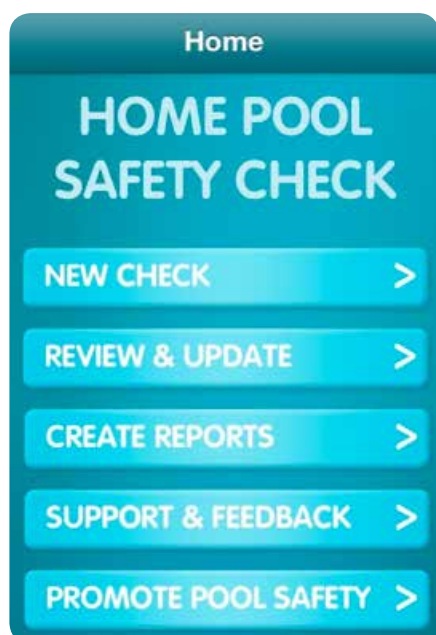
The checklist includes: the swimming pool gate; swimming pool fence; around the swimming pool fence; supervision; pumps, grates and suction; emergency preparation; chemicals and electricity.

You can use the checklist to identify a problem, take a photo and email a report. The Home Pool Safety app recommends actions to make your home pool safer. You can use the report as a record or to seek help to fix the problem.

To get more information or to download the Home Pool Safety App, visit www.royallifesaving.com.au or search for 'PoolSafety' in the App Store.



Keep Watch Ambassador Sam Riley, officially launched the Home Pool Safety Campaign and the Home Pool Safety App in November 2012



Home Pool Safety App Menu



Section Home Screen



Question Screen



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 Operation
- Guidelines for Water Safety
- Aquatic Facility Safety Assessments
- Lifeguarding training systems
- Management consultancy



Guidelines for Safe Pool Operation

Management standards and practices provide the managers of public pools and aquatic facilities with useful information about the minimum requirements and best practices in the operation of public pools and aquatic facilities.

The Guidelines for Safe Pool Operation (GSPO) is a venue-based risk management tool provided as a voluntary guide for operators to assist operators in satisfying their legislative requirements and providing a high standard of care for visitors to their centre.

Operators of aquatic facilities are charged with a responsibility for public and occupational health and safety and they must work within a diverse web of standards, state legislation and industry best practice. Although the GSPO is published by Royal Life Saving, it represents the collective opinion of the aquatics industry and a range of expert personnel across Australia through its development process.

The Guidelines have been primarily designed for application in municipal owned public facilities. However, the Guidelines relate to all facilities in which members of the public are encouraged to attend for recreational, fitness or educational purposes. The Guidelines are intended to be voluntary, acting as a guide to operators on the safe operation of swimming facilities.

The Royal Life Saving Guidelines for Safe Pool Operation clearly set out the requirements for a safe aquatic facility and are vital for managers of aquatic facilities. The GSPO also contains invaluable information for local government, facility owners, architects, engineers, duty managers and pool lifeguards.

The GSPO includes 91 guidelines across the following seven sections of aquatic facility operation:

1. General Operations
2. Technical Operations
3. First Aid
4. Facility Design
5. Supervision
6. Low Patronage Pools
7. Programs

Royal Life Saving undertakes a regular review of GSPO. The guidelines may also be amended based on coronial recommendations and industry feedback when necessary.

Early in 2013 the revised guidelines were released which included the updated programs section.



The Guidelines for Safe Pool Operation can be purchased online at www.royallifesaving.com.au

Australian Lifeguard Network

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

The Australian Lifeguard Network has been developed by Royal Life Saving however it is intended that the ideas shared through the network are those of Pool Lifeguards and aquatics professional working throughout Australia.

Lifeguard Challenge Series

The Lifeguard Challenge Series is a collaboration between the Australian Lifeguard Network and Pool Lifesaving Sport. The Lifeguard Challenge is a great opportunity for pool lifeguards to showcase the high levels of skills and knowledge required to perform their role on the pool deck every day. Royal Life Saving has identified the Lifeguard Challenge series as an important initiative to motivate lifeguards to undertake ongoing training.

Two Lifeguard Challenges were hosted in the ACT and NSW during 2012/13.

In February 2013 Canberra lifeguards gathered together to compete in the ACT Canberra Milk Lifeguard Challenge. Three of the ACT's largest aquatic facilities were represented by six teams this year including the Australian Institute of Sport, Canberra International Sports and Aquatic Centre and Dickson Aquatic Centre. The team from the Australian Institute of Sport took out top honours claiming the coveted ACT Lifeguard Cup for the first time ahead of last year's winners Dickson Aquatic Centre.

In April 2013 NSW hosted their Lifeguard Challenge at the Aquatic Safety Training Academy with seven facilities coming together to battle it out for the title of Lifeguard Challenge Champions. Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre took out the top spot ahead of rival teams from the Aquatic Safety Training Academy, Blacktown Leisure Centre Stanhope, Dawn Fraser Baths, Fairfield City Leisure Centres, Parramatta City Council and Mosman Swim Centre.



01 ACT Lifeguard Cup Winners, Australian Institute of Sport

02 NSW Lifeguard Champions, Sydney Olympic Park

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



Watch the 'Get Involved' and the 'Lifeguard Challenge 2013' videos at
[youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust](https://www.youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust)

State of the Industry Report 2013

Aquatic Facility Safety Assessment

Risk management is an essential tool for the successful and continued operation of an aquatic or leisure facility. To assist facility managers in meeting their responsibilities to visitors and employees of their facilities, Royal Life Saving provides the Aquatic Facility Safety Assessment (AFSA), which is an independent and comprehensive assessment of the operations of an aquatic facility.

The AFSA is based on the Guidelines for Safe Pool Operation, Australian Standards and relevant State and Territory legislation.

The AFSA is made up of:

- Onsite Safety Inspection Checklist
- Safety Score
- Safety Improvement Plan
- Observation & Recommendations

In line with the Guidelines for Safe Pool Operation, the areas the AFSA covers are general operations, emergency procedures, record keeping, first aid, plant room operations and chemicals, facility design, supervision, programming and specific aquatic areas such as wave pools and diving towers.

The sections of the AFSA are:

1. Administration
2. First Aid
3. Technical Operations
4. Facility Design
5. Spa Pools
6. Dive Pools
7. Water Slides
8. Wave Pools
9. Rivers
10. Water Features
11. Supervision
12. Programs

The AFSA provides recommendations for best practice for public safety, management and operation in aquatic facilities. Each year Royal Life Saving produces the State of the Industry report to provide a comprehensive assessment of safety standards in aquatic facilities across Australia. Based on the results of Aquatic Facility Safety Assessments (AFSAs) conducted across Australia, the State of the Industry report provides the opportunity to benchmark the performance of the industry against the industry standard – RLSSA's Guidelines for Safe Pool Operation (GSPO).

In 2013, the report was compiled from the results of AFSAs conducted between 1st April 2012 and 31st March 2013, with a total of 247 assessments.

Assessments were conducted across Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria. Western Australia does not utilise the automated assessment system and therefore was not included in the analysis.

Key facts at a glance

- Safety standards across the Australian aquatics industry have declined in 2013 with mean compliance of 80.1%, compared with the five year average of 83.2%.
- In 2013, 92 aquatic facilities undertook the Aquatic Facility Safety Assessment for the first time, bringing the total number of facilities assessed by Royal Life Saving since 2008 to 500.
- Section 6 – Dive Pools and Section 9 – Rivers reported the greatest variance with mean compliance 14.1% and 8.7% below the five year average in 2013.
- Section 12 – Programs was the only section that reported an improvement in 2013 of 5.1% against the five year average.
- Based on the results of Aquatic Facility Safety Assessments conducted in 2013, defibrillators may be found in as few as one in four aquatic facilities across Australia.
- Facilities assessed regularly report higher levels of compliance than those facilities assessed only once. The difference in mean compliance between those facilities assessed once and those assessed every year is 20.8%.

Recommendations

- It is recommended that facilities consider the availability of a defibrillator within their facilities because of the benefits of early defibrillation in resuscitation.
- It is recommended that facilities review existing signage strategies, with the aim of improving the communication of common hazards in aquatic facilities and promoting active parental supervision in support of lifeguards.
- It is recommended that all facilities undertake an Aquatic Facility Safety Assessment annually to ensure continual improvement of management standards and practices as part of a strategy to reduce risk and prevent drowning in Australian aquatic facilities.

Figure 1: Number of Aquatic Facility Safety Assessments conducted, by State/Territory

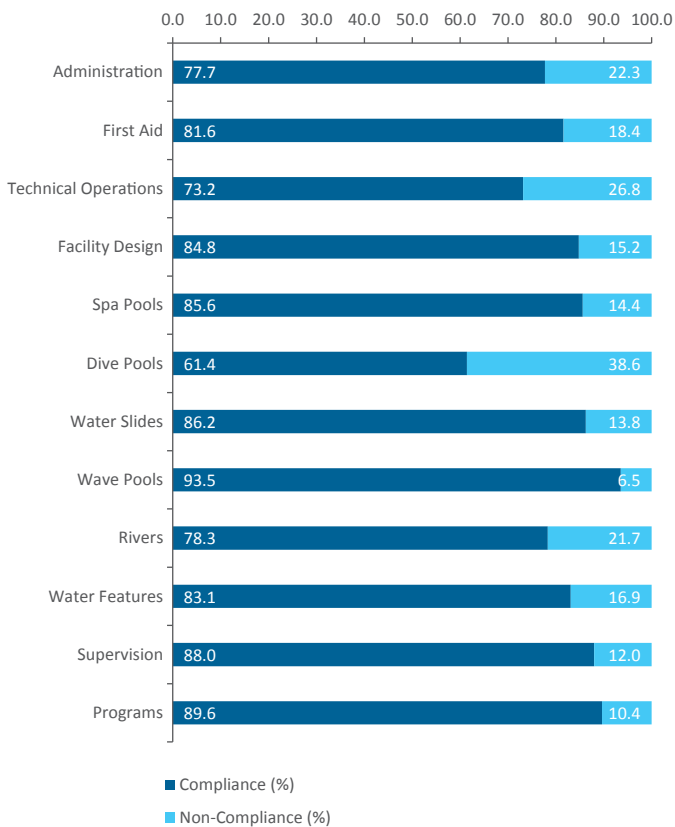


Table 1. Mean Safety Score and Compliance (%)

	2013	5 Year Average
Mean Safety Score All Assessments	80.0	82.5
Mean Score Qualification Items	78.6	81.2
Mean Compliance All Assessments	80.1	83.2
Mean Compliance Qualification Items	75.0	80.5



Figure 2: Mean compliance (%), by Section



80.1%

MEAN COMPLIANCE TO SAFETY STANDARDS ACROSS THE AUSTRALIAN AQUATICS INDUSTRY IN 2013



Keep up to date with the Royal Life Saving Youtube channel
[youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust](https://www.youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust)



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

- Community engagement and communication
- Community participation and programming
- 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, 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

Ngadyung Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aquatic Recreation Program

August 2012 marked the fifth anniversary of the ACT's Aboriginal Aquatic Recreation Program, Ngadyung. The program is hosted by Royal Life Saving – ACT, was initially established with funding from ACT Health and now has strong local and national supporters including The Club Group.

The principle training component of Ngadyung – the Ngunnawal word for 'water' – is the Royal Life Saving Swim and Survive program. More than 500 local ATSI children have participated in the program since its inception and now have essential swimming and survival skills which they will retain for life.

The Ngadyung Aboriginal Aquatic Recreation Program is governed by a Steering Committee that provides advice to the Ngadyung Project Officer and Royal Life Saving ACT. The Ngadyung Project Officer liaises closely with both the Steering Committee and with local ATSI organisations to ensure the relevance of the training opportunities provided to the ACT ATSI community.



MATE Program

Royal Life Saving offers the AUSTSWIM program MATE - Making Aquatics a Terrific Experience (MATE), an innovative and interactive community seminar aimed at optimising health and wellness opportunities for those with a disability.

The program provides Carers with the skills and knowledge to take their MATE to the pool for recreation activities. It is not a program about swimming strokes; it is a guide to encourage and facilitate physical activity for people who may not always have the opportunity to participate in aquatic activities.

Royal Life Saving Society - Tasmania received financial support from the Tasmanian Community Fund to provide this program to paid and unpaid carers at low cost around the State. Once carers feel confident about taking their MATE to the pool, they too can have a relaxing and enjoyable experience.

The program is suitable for all types of disabilities, from intellectual disabilities to those in a wheelchair, stroke victims and people with autism. It offers comprehensive notes, real life scenarios, simulation exercises and networking opportunities.

"This program will be of interest to any Council who has a pool within their municipality. We can deliver the training that will contribute towards greater utilisation of their facilities by those with disabilities and better health outcomes for the local community. Aquatic activity is beneficial as it promotes a sense of wellbeing, maximises body function and independence, improves mood and self-esteem and provides fitness opportunities."

**Christian Farley, General Manager,
Royal Life Saving Society - Tasmania**

Swim SAFE. Swim SOBER.

Background

New South Wales has an abundant array of aquatic environments, from our pools and beaches through to our vast rivers, lakes and dams. Whether fishing, boating, swimming, surfing or recreating our culture and active nature lends itself to aquatic participation. Drinking alcohol is intrinsic to most Australians. It is seen as normal, sociable and in some cases expected, and its widespread use appeals to people of all ages and in all walks of life.

In many countries, including Australia, alcohol is responsible for a considerable burden of death, disease and injury. Alcohol-related harm to health is not limited to drinkers but also affects families, bystanders and the broader community.

The use of alcohol prior to partaking in aquatic activity has been shown to significantly increase the risk of aquatic related injury and death due to a change of physical and behavioural changes that occur when alcohol has been consumed.

Recognition of the role of alcohol as a risk factor for drowning, near drowning and other types of injury associated with aquatic related activities is increasing. Research on the contribution of alcohol deaths has suggested that between 30-50% of adolescent drowning deaths and between 25-50% of adult drowning deaths involve alcohol.

Males aged 15-30 years have been identified as a significant problem due to their greater risk taking behaviour that is heightened when alcohol or illicit drugs have been consumed. It is for this reason that Royal Life Saving NSW and the NSW Government established the Swim SAFE Swim SOBER initiative. This initiative consists of a range of strategies, one of which is the new Swim SAFE Swim SOBER Online Program.

Strategy

The Swim SAFE Swim SOBER Online Program is an innovative online educational experience that is designed for secondary school students. The program draws upon a broad range of alcohol issues and utilises aquatic themes to explore risk-taking behaviour, resilience, personal attitudes and beliefs, personal relationships, refusal skills, contingency planning and ethical decision making. The Swim SAFE Swim SOBER Online Program has been developed to specifically meet key syllabus outcomes and will challenge students in a creative technology based platform.

Its flexible design provides classroom teachers with the opportunity to deliver Swim SAFE Swim SOBER as an "in class facilitated experience" or as a "blended class, home learning program".

The Swim SAFE Swim SOBER Online Program is hosted on the Royal Life Saving Society eLearning system.

Through the support of the NSW Government the Swim SAFE Swim SOBER Online Program is available free to secondary schools throughout NSW. It is hoped that through the utilisation of this technology based approach our adolescents will have greater insight into the dangers they are exposed to when mixing alcohol with aquatic activity.

An initiative of Royal Life Saving

SwimSAFE  **SwimSOBER**

Swim and Survive Fund

The Royal Life Saving Swim and Survive Fund provides subsidised swimming and water safety courses for children experiencing social or economic disadvantage. This year, Peer to Peer Fundraising has been a highlight, with individuals, schools and community groups choosing to support the Swim and Survive Fund.

To find out more about Peer to Peer Fundraising, please visit www.swimandsurvive.com.au.

Pymble Red Squad

Every year, the Pymble Red Squad swimmers exchange small gifts with each other to celebrate Christmas and the year that was. But for Christmas 2012, they decided to do something different - to give swimming and water safety lessons not to each other, but to those who would normally miss out.

"It all came from a discussion between the team members," said Penny Walker, mother of one of the swimmers. "They were talking about how lucky they were to have had swimming lessons and to be enjoying swimming so much. They wanted to be able to give that opportunity to people who wouldn't normally get the chance," she said.

The Pymble Red Squad is a junior squad of young State level swimmers aged between eight and 12 based at Pymble Ladies College (PLC). While the team is comprised mainly of girls, a few talented brothers also made it onto the team.

"The squad read all about the Royal Life Saving Swim and Survive Fund on the internet and saw that Olympic swimmers like Eamon Sullivan and Emily Seebohm were involved. This was actually quite a drawcard for the team," Ms Walker said.

Together, the Pymble Red Squad raised over \$900 for the Swim and Survive Fund; money that they would normally spend on Christmas presents. "The kids really got a great feeling out of doing this," Ms Walker said.

"They were so excited knowing that their contribution might actually save someone's life. They know that one of the kids who receives lessons may go on to become an Olympic swimmer, but the most important thing to them, is knowing that if just one child learns the skills to stay safe in the water, then it was worth it."



Carly Riddoch

A university assignment gave Carly Riddoch the opportunity to reconnect with swimming and do something very worthwhile for children who would usually miss out on learning to swim.

"We're in fourth year now and our lecturer decided that we'd written enough lesson plans," Ms Riddoch, a primary school education student said.

"He challenged us to raise awareness about something we wouldn't normally think about; to stop thinking about ourselves and to think about others," she said.

The challenge posed a perfect opportunity for Ms Riddoch—a former swimmer, swim teacher and volunteer life saver—to get back into swimming. She entered the one kilometre Coogee Island Challenge, which took place on Sunday 14 April 2013, and decided to fundraise for Royal Life Saving's Swim and Survive Fund.

"I find it really sad that so many Australian children aren't learning how to swim. I mean, this is Australia, everyone should be taught how to swim," she said.

The importance of being safe near the water can't be overestimated. "The Swim and Survive Fund isn't about making Olympic swimmers. It's all about keeping children safe when they are in or near the water," she said.

Ms Riddoch set a fundraising target of \$500 but quickly surpassed it. She made a new target of \$1000 and at the close of the swim has raised \$1170. Her support will make a big difference in the lives of many children.

"Swimming has given me so much joy for such a long time. It has been a really big part of my life and that of my family's for so long," she said. "It was an easy decision to choose a charity that was teaching disadvantaged children how to swim."





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
- Program effectiveness and evaluation
- Management of internal research activities and maintaining a research database
- Partnering in research projects both domestically and internationally

A comprehensive facts and figures searchable database has been added to the new 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
- Water Safety Issues Research
- Australian Water Safety Strategies
- Australian Water Safety Council Conference Proceedings



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

Research Published

Reports were completed and several articles were published in peer-reviewed journals over the course of 2012/13. This included the Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report 2013. The production of this report is made possible by the National Coroners Information System (NCIS) and State and Territory Coronial Services.

Peer-reviewed Articles & Additional Research Published

Pearn JH, Franklin RC (2013). Disability and Drowning: Personal Experiences, Research, and Practicalities of Adapted Aquatics. *International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education*. 7(2) 157-162.

Pearn JH, Franklin RC (2012). "The Impulse to Rescue": Rescue Altruism and the Challenge of Saving the Rescuer. *International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education* 6(4) 325-335.

Franklin RC, Scarr J (2012) ILS Drowning and Data Survey. International Life Saving Federation, Leuven, Belgium.

Research Partnerships

Royal Life Saving has been involved in a number of research collaborations over the past year with our State and Territory Member Organisations across areas such as Keep Watch @ Public Pools and home pool fencing legislation. Royal Life Saving Society – Australia has collaborated with Royal Life Saving Society – NSW on a survey to all NSW based public pools as part of a state-wide roll out of the Keep Watch @ Public Pools program. Also assisting with pre- and post- surveys of Grey Medallion participants at 50 courses across NSW.

Royal Life Saving Society – Australia collaborated with Royal Life Saving Society – SA on a joint submission to the SA Government Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure regarding proposed changes to home pool fencing legislation.

Royal Life Saving Society – Australia collaborated with Royal Life Saving Society – NT on the production of several fact sheets targeted at Indigenous communities and owners of large rural properties. These fact sheets highlighted drowning prevention issues in the NT as well as the fencing requirements for pools on different size properties according to NT legislation.

Community perceptions of and attitudes towards children's swimming and water safety skills

Royal Life Saving joined together with AUSTSWIM to conduct a third research project to further understand children's swimming and water safety programs including the effectiveness, affordability and accessibility, this time from the community's perspective, namely parents.

The online survey was administered to parents of children aged 5 to 14 years old, from April to June 2013. Answers were also collected from parents whose children were not enrolled in swimming and water safety lessons, from parents of children aged outside the age range 5 to 14 years old, and from other members of the community who don't have children. Of a total of 1,790 respondents, the answers of 1,658 participants will be used in the analysis. A report outlining the findings will be produced and released in October 2013.

Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report 2013

The Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report 2013 reveals that 291 people drowned in Australian waterways between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013. The number of people who drowned in Australia increased this year and is the highest number of drowning deaths seen since 2009/10.

This figure of 291 drowning deaths is an increase of 15 drowning deaths (or 5%) on the adjusted total of 276 in 2011/12. This is however, a reduction of six drowning deaths (or 2%) on the ten-year (2002/03 to 2011/12) average of 297 drowning deaths.

Of the 291 drowning deaths that occurred in Australian waterways in 2012/13, 82% were male (238) and 18% were female (53).

Snapshot of Findings

Overall

- 291 people drowned in Australia between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013
- This is an increase of 15 drowning deaths (or 5%) on the adjusted total of 276 drowning deaths in 2011/12
- This is a reduction of six drowning deaths (or 2%) on the ten-year average of 297 drowning deaths

Sex and Age Group

- 82% of all drowning deaths were male (238 drowning deaths)
- 18% of all drowning deaths were female (53 drowning deaths)
- 31 (11%) drowning deaths occurred in children aged 0-4 years
- 9 (3%) drowning deaths occurred in children aged 5-14 years
- 26 (9%) drowning deaths occurred in young people aged 15 to 24 years
- 114 (39%) drowning deaths occurred in people aged 55 years and over

State and Territory

- 104 (36%) drowning deaths occurred in New South Wales
- 64 (22%) drowning deaths occurred in Queensland
- 46 (16%) drowning deaths occurred in Western Australia

Location and Activity

- 99 (34%) drowning deaths occurred in inland waterway locations
- 65 (22%) drowning deaths occurred at beach locations
- 45 (16%) drowning deaths occurred in ocean / harbour locations
- 58 people (20%) were using watercraft immediately prior to drowning
- 52 people (18%) drowned as a result of falls into water
- 48 people (16%) were swimming and recreating immediately prior to drowning

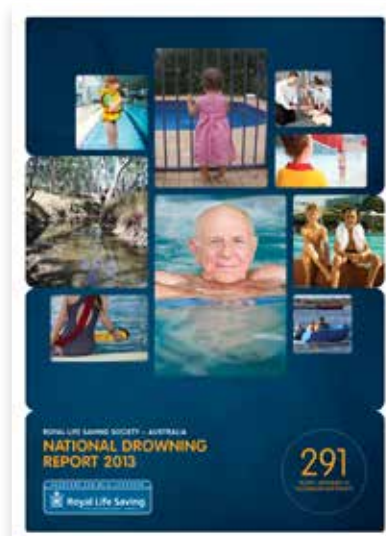
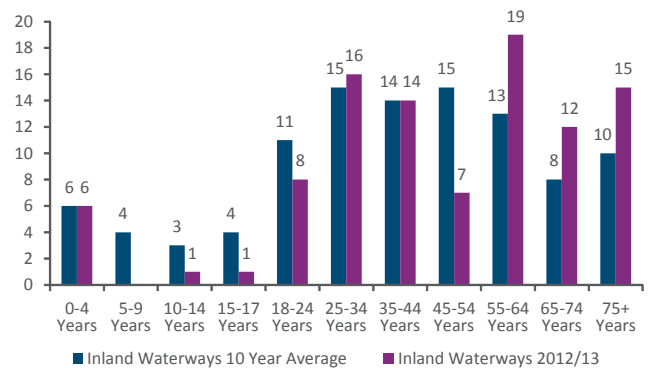
Location in Focus: Inland Waterways

There were 99 (34%) drowning deaths in inland waterways (rivers, creeks, streams, lakes, dams and lagoons) in 2012/13. Of these, 67 drowning deaths occurred in River / Creek / Stream locations and 32 occurred in Lake / Dam / Lagoon locations.

The 2012/13 figure of 99 drowning deaths in inland waterways is a reduction of five drowning deaths (or 5%) on the ten-year average of 104 drowning deaths. Significant increases against the ten-year average were experienced this year in the older age group of 55+.

Drowning deaths of people aged 55+ in inland waterways have increased by 48% to 46 compared to the ten-year average of 31 drowning deaths.

Figure 01: Inland Waterway Drowning Deaths by Age Group, Ten-Year Average, 2012/13



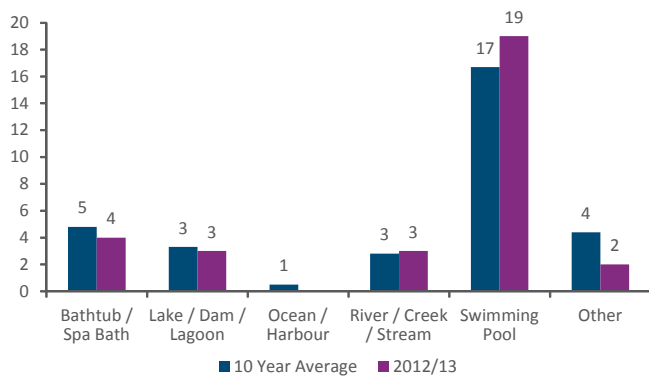
The full report can be downloaded from www.royallifesaving.com.au

Drowning Deaths of Children Aged 0-4 Years

There were 31 children between the ages of 0 and 4 years who drowned in Australia between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013. This is a reduction of two drowning deaths (6%) on the ten-year average of 33. Although in previous years we have seen pleasing reductions, the number of drowning deaths in the 2012/13 financial year is a disturbing reversal of the consistent downward trend observed in the previous four years. It is a 48% increase on 2011/12 figures for this age group.

Swimming pools continue to account for the largest proportion of drowning deaths in this age group, representing 61% of all drowning deaths in children aged 0-4 years. Swimming pools are also the only location where deaths increased this year when compared to the ten-year average.

Figure 02: Drowning Deaths of Children 0-4 Years by Location, 2012/13, Ten-Year Average



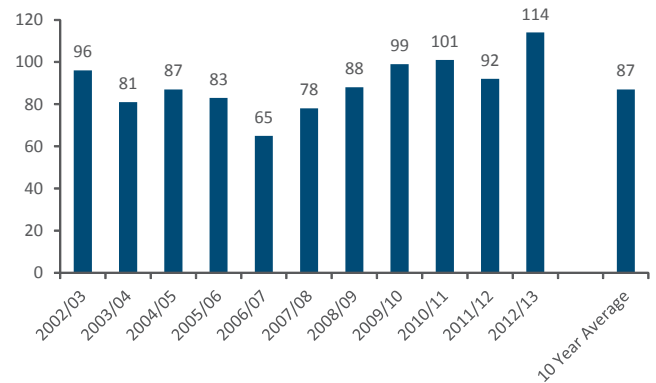
Drowning Deaths of people Aged 55 years and Over

There were 114 drowning deaths of people aged 55 years and over in Australian waterways between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013. This is an increase of 27 drowning deaths (or 31%) on the ten-year average of 87 drowning deaths (Figure 3). Males accounted for 79% of all drowning deaths in this age group.

Beaches were the location with the highest number of drowning deaths in this life stage, followed by rivers, creeks and streams.

Accidents involving watercraft were responsible for the largest number of drowning deaths with 27 drowning deaths or 24% of all drowning deaths in this life stage. This was followed by Swimming and Recreating (15%) and Falls into water (14%).

Figure 03: Drowning Deaths of People Aged 55+ Years, 2002/03 to 2012/13, Ten-Year Average



2012 | 2013

31 CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF FIVE DROWNED



Watch the 'RLS NDR 2013 - Children Under 5' video at youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust

THIS YEAR

114

PEOPLE AGED 55 YEARS AND OVER DROWNED



Watch the 'RLS NDR 2013 - People Aged 55+ video at youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust

Royal Life Saving National Fatal Drowning Database

Royal Life Saving has been working hard to continually validate the cases within the National Fatal Drowning Database against the National Coronial Information System (NCIS) and other State and Territory Coronial Offices.

With the release of the National Drowning Report for 2013, which profiled drowning deaths in all Australian waterways in the 2012/13 financial year, the database now includes 11 financial years of fatal drowning data across Australia.

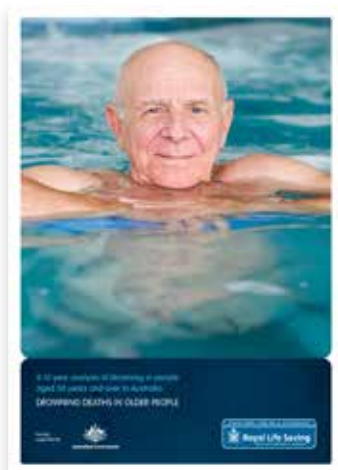
The database is a powerful tool for research and drowning prevention advocacy and strategy development. During 2012/13 the database has been enlisted for the collation/preparation of the following reports which have been scheduled for release in the next financial year.

A Ten-Year analysis of drowning in people aged 50 years and over in Australia: Drowning Deaths in Older People

Taking a life stages approach is one of the key priority areas for drowning reduction as proposed by the Australian Water Safety Council (AWSC) in the most recent Australian Water Safety Strategy (2012-2015). By looking in detail at the specific drowning circumstances for a particular age group, evidence-based prevention and reduction methods can be proposed, and can be expected to be more effective after implementation.

Drowning deaths of people aged 50 years and over accounted for 36% of all drowning deaths experienced in Australia between 2002/03 and 2011/12. Due to continually high numbers of drowning in older people, the problem has been recognised as a key issue needing immediate and sustained action.

This report encompasses a ten-year analysis of drowning deaths in people aged 50 years and over in Australia. The report aimed to gain an enhanced understanding of the scale of drowning as well as the circumstances of the incidents and the impact of demographic and lifestyle factors on drowning of older Australians.



A Ten-Year analysis of drowning in children and adolescents aged 5-19 years in Australia: The forgotten 50%

With ten years of fatal drowning data now available, Royal Life Saving has been able to update its research into the circumstances of drowning in children and adolescents aged 5 to 19 years in Australia.

The data showed that although there was been a pleasing downward trends in drowning deaths of children 0-4 years over the past decade, there has been little change to the drowning rate for children and adolescents 5 to 19 years.

The research found that although there is no single prevention strategy for the diverse range of circumstances leading to drowning in the broad age grouping of children and adolescents 5 to 19 years, data from the last ten years strongly suggests that a comprehensive approach should incorporate:

- Passive protection such as water barriers and Personal Flotation Devices.
- Active measures such as water safety and swimming instruction, risk identification and mitigation in swimming locations that are known to present higher risk, and parental awareness and supervision.

Drowning Deaths in Australian Rivers, Creeks and Streams: A Ten-Year Analysis

Inland waterways such as rivers, creeks and streams, lakes, dams and lagoons are common areas for recreation - both activities undertaken in the water such as boating and swimming, and the use of public spaces along these waterways for activities such as fishing and walking.

Unfortunately, engaging with changeable and potentially risky natural aquatic environments poses a risk of drowning. Australia has experienced consistently high numbers of drowning deaths in inland waterway locations over the past ten years and subsequent Australian Water Safety Strategies have identified inland waterways as a priority area for achieving a 50% reduction in drowning deaths by the year 2020.

Over the period of this study (2002/03 to 2011/12) rivers, creeks and streams accounted for 25% of all drowning deaths in Australia. To this end, this report focuses on the drowning deaths that have occurred in rivers, creeks and streams over the past ten financial years and makes recommendations for prevention.



MEDIA AND MARKETING

Royal Life Saving media and marketing campaigns support our advocacy activities to increase our visibility to stakeholders.

Website

In late November 2012, Royal Life Saving launched a new look website. The site was completely redesigned to offer simplicity and ease of use to 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.

The site continues to provide the latest water safety and drowning prevention information and includes several new features such as:

- Integration with our social media platforms - Facebook, Twitter and Youtube
- Events schedule so key dates can be promoted
- Searchable facts and figures database
- Simple booking function for those seeking training courses
- Royal Saving Staff/Member Intranet

The Royal Life Saving website is driven by clear outcomes:

- Advocacy (public awareness/information page views/downloads)
- Promotion / engagement (program registration, fundraising)
- Relationship-building (partnerships-aquatic centres, schools and supporters) and
- Financial return (training course enrolments /product sales).

The new website and Content Management System (CMS) has delivered an effective business solution which facilitates the complexities of the Royal Life Saving infrastructure with both National and State/Territory websites, and also integrates with associated Royal Life Saving websites, and online training bookings and e-learning modules.

For website administrators, the new CMS is easy-to-use providing the option of a simple edit suite and facilitates multiple users, managing workflow and security parameters.

The Royal Life Saving Staff/Member Intranet has been built to facilitate information sharing across program and work areas and will continue to be developed over the coming financial year. The Intranet currently includes the following categories: news and events, contacts, marketing (branding guidelines), training and policies.

A positive response has been received from customers and users alike for the new look website, with key statistics, including heat mapping, monitored to maximise the effectiveness of the site and allowing us to be responsive to our clients' needs.



Key Website Statistics

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

2012 / 2013	Royal Life Saving Society - Australia*	Capabiliti Training Online Bookings	Swim and Survive	Home Pool Safety	Australian Lifeguard Network	GSPO	Total / Averages
Visits	306,475	36,225	53,316	12,921	6,463	4,649	420,049
Page views	866,289	281,279	213,113	20,621	11,865	16,511	1,409,678
Average page views per visit	2.83	7.76	4.00	1.60	1.84	3.55	3.59
Average time spent per visit	2:31	5:59	1:09	1:17	1:16	3:23	2.42
Visitors	60% New 40% Return	44% New 56% Return	75% New 25% Return	85% New 15% Return	85% New 15% Return	57% New 43% Return	68% New 32% Return
Device Category	D = 251,885 M = 32,339 T = 22,251	D = 32,244 M = 2,156 T = 1,839	D = 44,944 M = 4,408 T = 3,964	D = 10,572 T = 1,204 M = 1,145	D = 5,161 M = 809 T = 493	D = 4,412 M = 121 T = 116	D = 349,218 (83%) M = 41,037 (10%) T = 29,808 (7%) Total 420,063

D = Desktop, M = Mobile, T = Tablet. * Includes Keep Watch

Swim and Survive Media Campaign

UNCLE TOBYS has been working in partnership with Royal Life Saving for the past four years, promoting the importance of water safety, swimming lessons and the Swim and Survive program to reduce the number of accidental drowning deaths in children.

This year's partnership and associated media activities included: the launch of the Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report; Swim and Survive media launch and online petition 'No Child Should Miss Out on Learning to Swim' and Swim Kids Operation 10,000 - Send-A-Swim and Save-A-Life.

Media included broadcast, print and online sources, with media figures/statistics reported from 1 July 2012 to 31 March 2013 as part of the following media snapshot.

Campaign Media Snapshot

Overall media value achieved was \$9,245,068 (in equivalent advertising dollar value) a figure derived from 941 media pieces/articles (421 broadcast/520 print). The greatest dollar value was derived from print media:

Print media = \$5,788,182 (62.6%)

Broadcast media (TV & radio) = \$3,456,886 (37.4%)

The print media value was up significantly from last year, rising from \$815,771 to \$5,788,182. This was in large part due to the success of the online petition and print media answering the call for support.

Broadcast media provided greater media reach contributing to 56% (57,579,610) audience impressions.

In terms of print media the audience impressions were 45,098,861, representing 44% of the total.



Keep Watch Media Campaign

PoolWerx have been working in partnership with Royal Life Saving for the past six years, promoting to parents and carers the importance of Supervision, Home Pool Safety, Restricting Access, Water Awareness and the Keep Watch Program to reduce the number of toddler drowning deaths.

This year's media activities included: the launch of the Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report; the Keep Watch Home Pool Safety media launch; and the release of the Home Pool Safety App. Media included broadcast, print and online sources, with media figures/statistics reported from 1 July 2012 to 31 March 2013 as part of the following media snapshot.

Campaign Media Snapshot

Overall media value achieved was \$4,932,056 (in equivalent advertising dollar value) a figure derived from 1,498 media articles. The greatest dollar value was derived from print media:

Print media = \$ 2,440,167 (49.5%)

Broadcast media (TV & radio) = \$ 2,165,305 (43.9%)

Community service announcements = \$326,584 (6.6%)

National, NSW and VIC Media generated most Media \$ Value:

National = \$1,779,460 (36%)

QLD = \$1,221,162 (25%)

NSW = \$851,597 (17%)

The media reach achieved 48,768,066 contacts via print and broadcast media, with broadcast media (TV & radio) the largest contributor (77%).

Suburban newspapers accounted for the largest proportion of print media audience impressions at 34% (3,808,414).

TV generated 83% of broadcast media value.

Keep Watch Ambassador Sam Riley at Sky News as part of the Home Pool Safety Campaign in November 2012





SPORT, LEADERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

Pool Lifesaving sport is perfect for those who want to add an extra dimension to their swimming. You can learn, develop and hone your lifesaving skills; build confidence and become part of a team. No matter what your age or how well you swim, there's plenty for everyone to enjoy and learn with Pool Lifesaving sport.

Royal Life Saving has an established sport participation pathway for lifesavers to compete in regular events from community to elite level. 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.

01



02



03

Pool Lifesaving Events

National High Performance Training Camp, APLSC Short Course 2012 & Sport / Participation Workshop Alice Springs, NT, July 2012

Thirty-five Australian team athletes, coaches and managers along with officials from around the country travelled to Alice Springs to participate in the NT Sport and Participation Workshop, the National High Performance Training Camp and the Australian Pool Life Saving Short Course Championships 2012. There were some fantastic swims recorded.

World Lifesaving Championships, Rescue 2012 Adelaide, South Australia, November 2012

Two Australian Lifesaving teams contested the National Teams - World Lifesaving Championships – Rescue 2012 in November in Adelaide, South Australia. The Open Australian Lifesaving Team claimed silver overall at the Championships after being beaten by close rivals, New Zealand and the Under 20 Australian Lifesaving Team won the Overall Youth World Lifesaving Championship title.

There were a number of standout performances by Royal Life Saving members in both Australian teams:

Open Australian Lifesaving Team – Andrew Bowden, Sam Bell, Tim Schofield and Pamela Hendry.

Under 20 Australian Lifesaving Team – Keelan Bridge, Alisha Ellwood and Rachelle King.

The standout performances didn't end with the National Teams competition however. Clubs from Port Hacking Lifeguard Club, the Hills Lifesaving Club and Payneham Lifesaving Club tackled the Interclub competition. Port Hacking Lifeguard Club finished the World Lifesaving Championships as the leading Pool Lifesaving club in Australia. Masters competitors from Port Hacking Lifeguard Club, the Hills Lifesaving Club and Ithaca Caloundra City Lifesaving Club also performed brilliantly with three world records, three Australian National Records and an impressive medal haul from the Hills Lifesaving Club.

Congratulations to the 16 Royal Life Saving officials who represented Australia proudly, including Roz Grey who was appointed Deputy Chief Referee - National Teams, Anni Gardiner who was appointed Chief Referee SERC - National Teams & Interclub Teams and Jo Teagle who was appointed Deputy Chief Referee – Masters.

Royal Life Saving representative officials' during Rescue 2012 included: Anni Gardiner, Barbara Morgan, Brione Rundle, Damian Hofman, Helen Quinn, Jaclyn Baxter, Joanne Teagle, John Winch, Karon Lamb, Melanie Williams, Norm Stanley, Pam Stanley, Roz Grey, Steve Williams, Sue Baxter-Winch and Vaughan Jones.

01 National High Performance Training Camp

02 Under 20 Australian Lifesaving Team at Rescue 2012

03 Open Australian Lifesaving Team at Rescue 2012



Australian Pool Life Saving Championships 2013 Sydney, New South Wales, January 2013

The Australian Pool Life Saving Championships 2013 were held at the Knox Grammar Aquatic Centre in January 2013. Congratulations to NSW who took out the Interstate Overall Championship for the tenth time narrowly beating close rivals QLD.

Congratulations to the 174 competitors from Interstate teams and clubs and the individual competitors who broke 27 Australian Pool Life Saving Championship records and 17 national records over the three-day Championships despite the sometimes difficult weather conditions (with temperatures soaring over 45 degrees on day one).

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

Upcoming events

RLSS Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships 2013 Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, September 2013

In September 2013, Royal Life Saving will host the RLSS Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships 2013 with countries from across the Commonwealth descending on Canberra to compete for Commonwealth glory.



Watch the 'APLSC 2013 - Are you up to the challenge' video at [youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust](https://www.youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust)



Leadership and Participation

RLSSA Singapore Tour 2013

Toward the end of May, a newly selected Royal Life Saving Aussie Barras team set off to Singapore to contest the 14th National University of Singapore (NUS) Invitational Lifesaving Championships 2013.

The team was led by Coach Gray Parkes, managed by Anni Gardiner and captained by team members Mitchell Parkes and Pamela Hendry. This tour was an opportunity to gain race experience at an international competition, but emphasised more focus on being able to help pass on our lifesaving skills to developing teams.

Daily training sessions took place at the competition pool to prepare and go through final race preparations and team meetings held alongside these sessions delved into powerful discussions about leadership and individual personality, including testing the Myers Briggs theory, of which I found the most valuable.

On Friday, the day prior to the competition, an interactive training clinic was offered to all Singaporean athletes and officials who wanted to gain additional knowledge and skills of each of the Pool Lifesaving events. This gave us; the Aussie Barras; a rare chance to pass on our knowledge of Pool Lifesaving events and aid individuals by demonstrating and giving hands on assistance where needed. RLSSA Officials Roz Grey, Jo Teagle, Karon Lamb, Anni Gardiner and Gray Parkes played a huge part in making the clinic so successful and run smoothly.

The competition got underway on the weekend and it was a fantastic opportunity to build friendships with numerous Singaporean team members and race alongside them. Our team was invited to join the formal conclusion dinner that allowed us to take part in a traditional Singaporean banquet.

As a whole; this trip was truly rewarding and highlighted the importance of being a cohesive team. Thank you to Royal Life Saving Society - Australia for giving us this opportunity; each and every member of the team thoroughly enjoyed the trip!

Pamela Hendry - Team Captain, Aussie Barras 2013



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 Bangladesh (CIPRB), Department of Education and Training Danang, Vietnam and others in the development of interventions to prevent drowning in countries in Asia.

International Drowning Prevention

It has now been two years since Royal Life Saving hosted the World Conference on Drowning Prevention (WCDP) 2011, and Royal Life Saving continues to receive very positive feedback and high esteem from the international drowning prevention community. We work with the Australian Government to increase its support for child drowning prevention in countries such as Bangladesh. While this planning process is underway, Royal Life Saving has continued to build upon its partnership, research and advocacy aimed at establishing a regional drowning prevention strategy.

We work in partnership in many countries and our leadership is extended across the region. In November, our President Dianne Montalto ESM was elected to the ILS Board and our CEO Justin Scarr was elected as the ILS Asia –Pacific Secretary General. Further appointments were made to the ILS Commissions:

Justin Scarr, Chair –
Drowning Prevention Commission
Amy Peden, ILS Drowning Prevention Commission
Dr Shayne Baker OAM, ILS Rescue Commission
Prof John Pearn AO RFD, ILS Medical Committee
Anni Gardiner, ILS Sport Commission

We contribute leadership to the Royal Life Saving Society Commonwealth. Dianne Montalto ESM is our representative to the Commonwealth Management Committee. Many other people contribute to various committees. We are currently working to prepare for the Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships in Canberra in September 2013. The RLSS Commonwealth will celebrate 125 years in 2016, and we are in early stages of planning local celebrations.

We thank all these representatives for the substantial volunteer contributions to ILS and RLSS Commonwealth on our behalf.

Cost-Effectiveness of an Injury and Drowning Prevention Program in Bangladesh

Recent reports have outlined the child drowning issue in Bangladesh. They are staggering numbers; drowning is responsible for 43% of child mortality in the 1-4 years age group, and is the number one cause of child mortality in the 1-17 age group.

In December, after many years of careful planning, design and research, an article described as seminal in the context of child drowning in low and middle income countries was published in the *Journal Pediatrics*. The article, *Cost-Effectiveness of an Injury and Drowning Prevention Program* in Bangladesh was published by Dr Fazlur Rahman, Dr Aminur Rahman, Dr Saidur Mashreky from the Centre for Injury Prevention and Research – Bangladesh (CIPRB), Dr Mike Linnan of The Alliance for Safe Children, and colleagues from National Singapore University. Royal Life Saving has made a significant contribution to this research, not only in the design and technical support for the program, but also in securing funding to continue the surveillance program and support for the management of CIPRB.

The results are staggering, and in many respects will provide the drowning prevention sector with many tools to secure and increase funding, influence the expansion of interventions and test alternate methods. The research found that the Anchals (village-based day care centres) prevented 82% of child drowning deaths in children aged 1–5 and SwimSafe prevented 93% of drowning deaths in children aged 4–12 years. If implemented across Bangladesh the combined projections showed that the Anchal and SwimSafe programs had the potential to save many lives. Effectiveness is one measure, but the international development community, particularly Government and the large philanthropic donors are just as interested in the return on their aid investment. It costs just over \$50 per year for a child to attend an Anchal, and \$13 for a child to receive SwimSafe lessons.

Royal Life Saving is extremely proud to have contributed to global drowning prevention research in this way. We wish to pay tribute to all of the volunteers and staff who have contributed in various ways.

Model Drowning Prevention Centre, Bangladesh

Royal Life Saving continues to support the International Drowning Research Centre – Bangladesh. It launched a purpose-built Model Drowning Prevention Centre situated in the remote village of Raiganj. The centre is a working example of the latest in child drowning prevention, research and practice. In the past year it has been testing the feasibility of community first responder systems – a direct application of our own mantra – everyone can be a lifesaver. Interim results show that not only do young people learn CPR, they use it commonly and with success. In the past six months just over 1000 people were trained and they responded to 59 drowning cases. Of these, 12 required CPR and nine survived. This has huge scientific and development interest.

The centre is set up as a functioning crèche, and includes training rooms where teachers, parents and others can be taught CPR, first aid, and drowning prevention theory. Outside is a pond and portable swimming pool where children are taught to swim via the SwimSafe program.

SwimSafe Bangladesh

SwimSafe Vietnam

SwimSafe Vietnam is a demonstration program in Danang that helps the Government of Vietnam, as well as local partners including the Department of Education, run a large-scale survival swimming program.

Since its inception in 2009, SwimSafe has taught over 30,000 children between the ages of six and 12 years. The program is managed by The Alliance for Safe Children and led by a management committee consisting of master trainers, principals and district officers in and around Danang. An external review was conducted in September 2012, and found that the program had high levels of local engagement, was contributing to the wellbeing of local children and building substantial swimming and water safety capacity in the local school system. Whilst we were hopeful that the Australian Government would support the requests from the Vietnamese Government to roll the program out in other provinces, we have commenced the transfer of responsibility to local authorities. Royal Life Saving will continue to provide technical support. We thank the team at the TASC Danang office, Ross Cox, Hoa Do Thi My, Loan Nguyen Dang Thuy and Son Tran Quang who worked hard to achieve such great results. We are hopeful that this effort will impact upon swimming and water safety in Vietnam for many years to come, and we acknowledge the friendship and support of Ambassador Pete Peterson, Vi Peterson and Dr Mike Linnan.

The Global Drowning Fund

In March 2012, Royal Life Saving launched the Global Drowning Fund website and associated Facebook and Twitter social media platforms.

The website and social media platforms are being used to advocate for drowning prevention in low and middle income countries (LMICs) as a global public health issue, to provide resources, news and information about the issue, and to act as a central fundraising location. Funds raised through the Global Drowning Fund will help 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>



Neri Ganzarski Raises Much Needed Funds for SwimSafe Bangladesh

As a lover of swimming with her local swim club in Seattle, Washington, Neri Ganzarski was saddened to learn about the high rate of drowning among children in Asia. She decided she wanted to help and set about raising funds for our Survival Swimming project in Bangladesh.

As part of her Bat Mitzvah celebrations for her 12th birthday, Neri held two events, one in Seattle with friends and one in Israel with her extended family. In lieu of gifts, she asked family and friends to donate to the SwimSafe program.

Neri raised \$1800 dollars through her two fundraising events. This is enough to provide 90 children with essential swimming and water safety skills through the SwimSafe program or establish three village crèche programs that keep young children safe from drowning while providing early childhood education.

Neri hopes that her efforts will encourage other children to do the same and raise funds for important community projects such as SwimSafe.

Neri says "When I saw that so many kids die because they don't know how to swim - something that is so important and fun for me in my daily life - I knew that this was something I needed to try and change, even by a little bit. I like that SwimSafe is able to reach so many remote places and save so many lives."

Roei, Neri's father, is extremely proud of his daughter's efforts. "In our faith, the Bat Mitzvah is an important milestone and signifies a girl's maturing into a young woman. I couldn't be more proud than to see Neri forego what would probably have been very nice gifts for herself and instead focus everyone's attention to such an important cause that is dear to her heart. You can't ask for more mature than that."

If you would like to donate to the SwimSafe program, please visit the www.globaldrowningfund.org.au



OUR STATE AND TERRITORY MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

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.

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

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 8927 0400 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

Chief Executive Officer

Justin Scarr (from January 2013)
Rob Bradley (to January 2013)

Operations

Chief Operating Officer
Justin Scarr (to January 2013)
National Manager Aquatic Industry Services
Matt Griffiths (to June 2013)
National Manager Vocational Training
Penny Hodggers
National Manager Events and Marketing
Monique Sharp
National Sport and Events Officer
Emma MacMillan
National Manager Research and Policy
Amy Peden
Senior Research Fellow
Dr Richard Franklin PhD (Honorary from April 2013)
National Manager Education and Training
Penny Larsen
Senior Project Officer – Education
Kristal Grainger
Communications Manager
Matthew Smeal (to June 2013)
Finance and Administration
National Manager Finance
Rhonda Groneman
Administration and Accounts Officer
Sunny Fung
Fundraising Officer
Jennifer Orford (to June 2013)
Fundraising and Administration Officer
Sam Rodgers (to April 2013)

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Having only taken up the position of Executive Director at the tail end of this reporting period I am very humbled to provide this Royal Life Saving ACT 2012/2013 Annual Report.

Although my time in this particular role has not been extensive, I feel that the previous eight years that I served as Operations Manager with Royal Life Saving ACT puts me in good stead to comment on, and indeed celebrate, the Branch's most recent achievements.

Royal Life Saving ACT has, over the past year, focused its energies on building capacity for sustainable Royal Life Saving programs throughout Canberra. With the implementation of exciting initiatives such as My Time to Swim, which is a gender specific swimming program, and AquaM8, the new ACT High Schools' Lifesaving program, more members of the community have been able to gain access to quality aquatic activities and instruction this year.

The ACT Primary Schools Swim and Survive program, still subsidised for students by the ACT Education and Training Directorate, has grown exponentially since last year with the addition of 14 new schools and a record number of 6,428 participants. I would like to extend gratitude on behalf of Royal Life Saving ACT to the team behind the scenes of this great program.

Education Manager Nicole Lloyd and her team of qualified AUSTSWIM teachers and supervisors continuously put in 110% to ensure that these lessons run smoothly, communications are fluent and that everyone has fun in a safe and happy environment.

The Canberra Labor Club remained a major sponsor for Royal Life Saving ACT this year providing scholarships for at-risk children in the ACT Schools Swim and Survive program, and free participation in the Canberra Labor Club Swim 4 Life program. Swim 4 Life offers Swim and Survive lessons to children who may not have previously had the chance to participate in structured aquatic activities.

The feedback Royal Life Saving ACT has received from the families involved with this program is heartfelt and sincere. Canberra Labor Club's Swim 4 Life is truly one of the most rewarding programs in our portfolio.

This community development theme is constant throughout Royal Life Saving ACT's achievements this year. We have created over 1,760 Everyday Lifesavers through our accredited VET First Aid and aquatic rescue short courses and 1,500 more through community programs and updates. Our suite of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aquatic Recreation programs is constantly growing as our community reach increases. The aspects of inclusion and access for all are at the forefront of our development strategies and we are continually striving for higher level community engagement and partnerships.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Royal Life Saving ACT President, Chief Justice Terence Higgins, and the Board of Directors for their guidance; the staff and volunteers of the Royal Life Saving ACT branch, with particular mention of Brad Bell, Hannah Blundell, Nicole Lloyd, and Heidi Nairne, for making the past year successful and enjoyable; and to the individuals, local organisations and government departments who contribute their time, funds, and advocacy to our worthy cause - I happily anticipate the next era of lifesaving in the ACT with such healthy support coming from you all.

Cherry O'Connor

Executive Officer
Royal Life Saving Society – ACT

NEW SOUTH WALES

I am pleased to report the 2012/2013 year was a very busy, but rewarding and successful year for the NSW Branch of Royal Life Saving. Although 2012/2013 has been successful with regard to the number of awards issued (272,435), the number of residents of NSW receiving water safety information (estimated over 500,000) and the new innovation in course and program delivery, water safety still remains a challenge for all Australians. It is an area that Royal Life Saving recognises as an issue and potential threat to our Australian way of life. The challenge is set for not only Royal Life Saving but also the NSW Government and each and every community group and individual member.

The NSW Branch continues to receive great support from a very proactive NSW Government determined to make a difference and assist organisations such as Royal Life Saving to save lives when one looks at aquatic and recreation activities. I would like to sincerely thank the NSW Government for their continued support, especially the Honourable Michael Gallacher MLC, NSW Minister for Police and Emergency Services along with his ministerial colleagues in Sport and Recreation, Local Government, Health and Education.

Royal Life Saving in NSW continues to lead the way and remains the only organisation able to deliver lifesaving, survival, rescue, resuscitation and first aid courses and programs to all communities within NSW. The NSW Branch, throughout 2012/2013, continued its delivery in vocation and education training courses as well as its community courses but refined and redeveloped the way they are delivered by introducing on-line options. The Branch was heavily involved and strongly supported the NSW Government's new regulations pertaining to the changes to the NSW Swimming Pool Legislation which can only save more lives.

I am pleased to advise we have made improvements to the Society's on-line shop where lifesaving products and services can be accessed through the electronic world and the Branch has continued the wonderful work that is being done out of the Society's Aquatic Safety Training Academy at Seven Hills in Western Sydney.

The NSW Branch continues to re-focus and re-evaluate its scope, through well researched data, to target 'at-need' groups and individuals. The Branch therefore has continued throughout 2012/2013 the work and effort it is making in areas of at-risk and under-represented groups such as Australia's Cultural and Linguistically Diverse Communities, our indigenous community, the 0-5 age group, the 55+ age group, the 6-14 age group, the effects of alcohol and drugs on aquatic activity and areas such as backyard pools, public pools, rivers, creeks and dams, all of which continue to be a concern and focus for Royal Life Saving.

I am pleased to report in the sports arena Royal Life Saving NSW Branch continues to strive ahead with our NSW State Team being crowned champion state at the 2013 Australian Pool Lifesaving Championship. The team has been overall champions for 10 of the past 11 years, a feat no other state has achieved. At grass roots level, NSW continues to be the most proactive with regard to sport by having an organised and structured club and state program where the skills learned in our community programs are honed to emphasise technique and speed.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those individuals and organisations that make the Royal Life Saving Society NSW Branch what it is today. Our vast volunteer network of members, sub-branches, examiners and lifesaving clubs are extremely important to the Society's aims and objectives. Thanks must also go to the Royal Life Saving's partners, stakeholders, supporters and sponsors for their ongoing vital support in ensuring the safety of all constituents of NSW through Royal Life Saving programs and courses. Whilst thanking people who have made a significant contribution to Royal Life Saving, I must acknowledge Mr Robert Bradley. Rob retired from the position of National CEO during the 2012/2013 year after 16 years in the position. Rob has been successful in managing the operations of the National Office, achieving better support from Federal Government, securing a number of national sponsors and assisting the Society's smaller State and Territory Branches with financial support, human resource support, program development and course resources. Through Rob's guidance Royal Life Saving Society - Australia has assisted other countries in reducing their drowning and near drowning numbers and I am certain that Royal Life Saving has become stronger throughout Australia and internationally during Rob's reign since 1997.

I must end my report on a somewhat sad and sombre note, but one that is important for Royal Life Saving NSW Branch to acknowledge. Mr Neville Bayfield OAM sadly passed away on 1 August 2012. I am honoured to say Neville was a friend of mine who generously gave his time, expertise and knowledge to Royal Life Saving. He was a wonderful supporter of Royal Life Saving having served for over 40 years in many capacities including Deputy President of RLSS Commonwealth (1995-2009), RLSS Australia National President (1988-1994) and most recently Vice Patron of RLSS Australia. He was awarded the Order of Australia in 1997. Neville was a true gentleman touching many people within Royal Life Saving and is fondly remembered and sadly missed by his friends and colleagues within the Royal Life Saving fraternity.

I am confident the NSW Branch of Royal Life Saving will continue to "make a difference" and save lives through its important work now and into the future.

David Macallister

Chief Executive Officer
Royal Life Saving Society – NSW

NORTHERN TERRITORY

In 2012/13 Royal Life Saving Society NT Branch achieved many significant milestones while retaining our focus on reducing the Territory's significant drowning issue. We increased services to regional, remote and very remote communities and this enhances the quality of life for all Territorians. We had 1,804 active members in 2012/2013 and conducted 48 community events reaching 10,600 people, providing a direct community benefit to 31,280 people across the NT.

Our focus remains on community safety, aquatic programs, providing water safety initiatives and implementing public awareness and drowning prevention strategies specific to the needs of our community. Royal Life Saving NT continues to promote community wellbeing to assist Territorians build water safety knowledge and skills to encourage a safe, healthy and active lifestyle. Sadly, ten people drowned in this reporting year and the Northern Territory still has the highest drowning rate, per capita, in Australia.

This year, 11,818 primary school aged children from 79 schools participated in the Swim and Survive program, with 1,312 achieving the national benchmark of level 4. Just 5% of enrolled students achieved a level 4 or above. Royal Life Saving NT and the Department of Education have formed a partnership to address this alarming statistic.

Over the financial year, 2,661 children from 32 remote communities participated in the Remote Swim and Survive program. The program enabled children to learn to swim and participate in a pool lifesaving carnival. It has provided training and an AUSTSWIM mentoring program to assist local people in obtaining employment or volunteer services at their community swimming pool. A total of 310 members of remote communities participated in this training.

Across the NT, 4,634 training certificates were issued from a total of 311 courses, with 53% of this training conducted in regional and remote areas. In all, 1,690 statements of attainment were issued under Vocational Education and Training.

The NT Government Water Safety Awareness Program, proactive strategy for drowning prevention of children under five years of age, had 1,228 enrolments with thirteen providers operating across the NT. We are delighted that 10,823 children have participated in this program since inception.

The Sport of Pool Lifesaving achieved increased participation with over 3,000 children participating in carnivals in Darwin, Katherine, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and 18 remote communities. Royal Life Saving NT sent a team of 14 lifesaving athletes to the Australian Pool Life Saving Championships in Sydney. We placed sixth overall, a fantastic achievement.

Two ongoing challenges for Royal Life Saving NT are:

1. Securing office space in Darwin and Alice Springs.
2. Sourcing funding for our remote swimming pools. Royal Life Saving NT is concerned for the overall sustainability of remote swimming pools and we continue to work with all levels of Government and Communities to seek solutions.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the following people for their ongoing support:

- The Patron of the Society, Her Honour the Honourable Sally Thomas AM
- The Hon. Minister Matt Conlan, Minister for Sport and Recreation
- The Hon. Minister Peter Chandler, Minister for Education for his ongoing support.
- The Water Safety Branch in Alice Springs and Darwin for a strong working partnership.
- The Board of Directors, members, competition members and volunteers for their wonderful work.
- Our dedicated staff, swimming instructors and trainers who are all very committed to the Society's teachings and future directions.
- Royal Life Saving Society - Australia and branches across Australia for strong working relationships in the commitment to water safety and safe aquatic sport and recreation.

Yours in Lifesaving

Floss Roberts

Executive Director
Royal Life Saving Society – NT

QUEENSLAND

Over the past year, Royal Life Saving Society QLD has continued to grow with a member network that extends to every corner of the state and members who support the vision of the Society through clubs, partnered swim schools and community hubs. Throughout the State, we have 422 trainers and instructors who delivered lifesaving skills to over 128,000 people during the 2012/13 season.

These members play a vital role in the provision of water safety education, which makes their communities stronger, and ultimately safer, with regards to aquatic risks.

Saving lives comes in many forms. Advocacy through industry leadership and policy contributes to the prevention of loss of life in a way that can never be truly measured. The annual release of the drowning statistics enables the Society to highlight the work that has to be done and develop strategies for the coming years. Following on from the drowning report, Royal Life Saving Society QLD conducted a number of education campaigns to create public awareness of aquatic risks.

The 2012 Keep Watch campaign highlighted that swimming pools continue to be the highest risk location of drowning for Australian children. To make things easier for pool owners across QLD, Royal Life Saving partnered with PoolWerx to develop a unique free Home Pool Safety App which was launched as part of the Keep Watch campaign. It is specifically designed to take the hassle out of ensuring your pool is as safe as possible. (Full details can be found at www.homepoolsafety.com.au) Using the checklist pool owners can identify a problem, take a photo and email a report. The unique Home Pool Safety App will then recommend actions to make a home pool safer. This is yet another great initiative by Royal Life Saving which enables the general public to be educated about water safety and prevent drowning incidents occurring.

Regional development has been identified as a key priority area. The vastness of the State is only matched by the enormity of the issue of drowning. New hubs of aquatic activity have emerged over the past 12-18 months in remote districts such as Birdsville, Cloncurry, Bedourie and Cobbold Gorge that have conducted a combination of Love 2 Swim, Junior Lifeguard and senior programs for community members. A recent survey of members identified that many trainers travel over 300km to deliver water safety programs, which demonstrates the commitment of our trainers to providing education to Queenslanders.

An integral aspect of the Society's work is our operation as a Registered Training Organisation (RTO). Whilst the road to becoming an RTO was challenging, it enabled Royal Life Saving to deliver accredited training specific to aquatic and allied industries and influence industry standards. During the 2012/13 season, the RTO has grown by over 5% and increased its scope of delivery by four extra qualifications in the training of Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Low Voltage Rescue and Swimming Pool Inspectors.

The Aquatic Industry is comprised of over 600 public pools, swim schools and leisure facilities which cater for the four million Queensland residents and tourists that visit our great state every year. With this in mind, Royal Life Saving Society QLD created a working party to develop ways to better support the industry and the Aquafutures Conference concept was created. The conference will focus on how the industry can meet the challenges it faces in the future with the program designed to motivate delegates through 'body, mind and business'. It will equip participants with the tools they require to be successful in the industry in the future. Hosted at Sea World, one of the world premier aquatic venues, this will be a flagship event for the organisation as it unites all facets of the aquatic industry under one roof.

Throughout this report you have read of the achievements of the Society during the past season, all of which contribute to the prevention of loss of life in aquatic environments. Whether it is a Bronze Medallion qualification, pool rescue competition or a new parent picking up a Keep Watch at Bath Time brochure, all these actions work towards preventing drowning. As there is no single cause of drowning there must be a multidimensional approach to the problem through education, training and skills, health promotion, aquatic risk management, sport and participation, advocacy and public awareness, research, community development, collaboration and partnerships. Into the future, it is critical that we maintain and evolve an organisational structure that meets the requirements for a modern Not for Profit organisation whilst upholding the humanitarian vision of the Society. We must continue to create a system of water safety education that ensures a high level of standardised aquatic education that is relevant to the greater community and aquatic industries.

Volunteers play an important role in the community and our organisation is no different. It is with the support of a proactive and engaged Board of Directors that we have prospered and the dedication of members that we have thrived. A special thanks to the life members with whom I have had greater involvement with this year, as they have provided me with guidance and encouragement throughout the season.

Finally, to my staff, this is my opportunity to thank you for your effort and achievements. We have an eclectic group of individuals who perform well as a team to produce a quality service to our members and the community.

Michael Darben

Executive Director

Royal Life Saving Society – QLD

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Throughout the 2012/2013 financial year, the Royal Life Saving Society SA has continued to work on the challenges of its organisational redevelopment.

Fine-tuning of the office renovations was completed, enabling the organisation to operate as an entity just as any other professional, small business enterprise.

One of our more significant and high priority projects was the five year re-registration of our Registered Training Organisation (RTO). As over 80% of Royal Life Saving's income in SA is derived from our fee-for-service training courses, it was a critical milestone to achieve. In September, we were audited by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) against all of the new National VET Regulator (NVR) Standards for RTOs. In December, we were notified by ASQA that we were successful in meeting all of the required standards and were granted registration for the full five year period until 2017. Many new policies, procedures and forms were implemented including the integration of the Vettrak Student Management System.

Having met the new NVR Standards for RTOs didn't mean however that we were perfect with our administrative and customer service response times. Therefore, the next logical priority and step in the plan for continued improvement was to seek recent and relevant feedback from our customers and stakeholders on all the matters that were outstanding and required improvement. A mechanism to obtain feedback was established through a feedback@royallifesavingsa.com.au email address. Additionally, feedback was collected from Members, Regional Liaison Officers, parents, students and other key stakeholders including the major pool operators.

Other important feedback came from the senior group of managers who operate SAs large council-run pools. These included the Adelaide Aquatic Centre, Payneham, Norwood, Unley, Burnside and Tea Tree Gully swimming centres. To ensure that Royal Life Saving SA remains relevant in the provision of services to the local aquatics sector, a new Royal Life Saving SA - Aquatics Training Advisory committee was formed. This industry-specific committee has membership from each of the above-named pools and now guides the Royal Life Saving Board of Governance with respect to the needs of the SA aquatics industry. We look forward to a long and cohesive relationship with the membership of this committee and see this as critical to fully understanding the changing needs of the sector and how the supply of our services will meet these needs.

Other important contractual relationships that were further strengthened included those with the Office for Recreation and Sport and the City of Charles Sturt. The purchase of our own Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) continues to be utilised at West Lakes during weekends, school holidays and all public holidays. We also offer our IRB service at no cost to other community-based organisations that run events at West Lakes. We are proud to work alongside the YMCA of SA for the Vacsxim program and continue to look for ways to work closely with the YMCA of SA to improve efficiency and service delivery of the program and assessment of the Royal Life Saving higher awards. The December vacation Swim and Survive program continues to be important for the wider community and accordingly, we are growing and improving our administration of this program.

We look forward to continuing to work alongside our committed and valued Regional Liaison Officers (RLOs) and the Royal Life Saving National Office as we all strive to achieve a common goal. An organisation's success is directly attributable to a high performing team and congratulations go to our team of Sheryl Kennedy, Ben Gillespie and Gary Barber. Lesley Bartlett, working in the volunteer capacity of our Chief RLO, has been very much a part of the office team in the way her contributions are highly valued and appreciated. I would also like to thank the Board of Governance for their support as together we work on the important financial and governance issues. I often seek counsel from our President, Robert Mackenzie AM and for this, he is appreciated. For most of the 2012/2013 financial year Sarix Business Services accurately processed our financial book-keeping followed by the appointment of Bentleys as our new Chartered Accountants and Auditors. I thank Jenny Woolley (Sarix) and David Papa (Bentleys) for their expertise and professionalism with our financial processing, monitoring and monthly reporting framework. Appreciation is also directed to our work experience volunteers who assist us in the office.

In general, the focus over the past year has clearly been on the investment of ways in which to continually improve our services to the community, reduce our operating costs and achieve financial surpluses so we can continue to serve our community. With a very moderate Human Resources budget and three staff, we have been attempting to meet the needs and demands of the community and will be maximising our efficiency through our new - and first - Royal Life Saving SA website. Nearing completion, this site will allow our customers to access information regarding all of our programs and services 24 hours a day. Customers will be able to select and book into training courses and swimming programs online. Payments from customers and confirmation letters will be automated and this will reduce the administrative burden in the office allowing more time for staff to talk with customers to help meet their needs. Trainers, instructors and examiners will be able to download resources and forms when they require them. We will also welcome new Members to join and re-subscribe via the website.

There are many opportunities that lie ahead of us and we particularly look forward to a high level of engagement if and when the proposed changes to home pool inspections are announced for SA. Our eagerness to improve is fuelled by our desire to regain prominence and respect for representing life saving and aquatics safety in SA.

As we meet each task and achieve every priority, they will simply be replaced by others and we will continually raise the bar on our standards. However, it will be through our thinking that we will achieve the greatest milestones for the SA community.

Tony Taylor

Chief Executive Officer
Royal Life Saving Society – SA

TASMANIA

Royal Life Saving Society – Tasmania had an eventful 12-month period, with some additional funding allowing us to strengthen our outreach into the Tasmanian community. The branch has continued to provide a wide breadth of training and advocacy services to the Tasmanian community, driving our mission to ensure that everyone can be a lifesaver.

We received a grant from the Tasmanian Community Fund to implement the Making Aquatics a Terrific Experience (MATE) program. This is an innovative and interactive community seminar aimed at optimising health and wellness opportunities for people with medical conditions and/or disabilities. The program will be rolled out over two years across the state.

One of the branch's key achievements was the hosting of the Tasmanian AUSTSWIM Conference in May, and the inaugural State AUSTSWIM Awards Dinner. We welcomed David Breen to the office to coordinate both the MATE program and the AUSTSWIM Conference.

We were delighted that the bequest from the Allport Trustees continued in 2012–13, allowing us to provide one-on-one CPR training to families of premature babies staying at the Royal Hobart Hospital.

It was great to see two Tasmanians recognised for their contribution to swimming and water safety. Mark Cranage was awarded the National AUSTSWIM Access and Inclusion Teacher of the Year Award and Margaret Woods was awarded the National AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety Award. Congratulations to them both on this significant achievement.

In November we ran a successful Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) aquatic program for students from Bhutanese, Nepalese and African background.

The Keep Watch Program continues to be a focal point of advocacy in Tasmania, and we are developing strong partnerships in childcare and early learning facilities. Unfortunately, the issue of home pool safety and particularly appropriate fencing legislation remains an issue in Tasmania. We are working closely with the State Government on this and other policy issues.

We continue to be an active, leading member of the Tasmanian Water Safety Council.

From the office perspective this was a year of transition for the branch, with the appointment of a new General Manager, Christian Farley, and two new appointments to the State Council, Pene Snashall and Dale Eastley, both of whom have a wealth of experience to contribute. Pene is the Manager Strategic Communications of Macquarie Point Development and Dale is the Chief Executive Officer of MS Society Tasmania. Two part-time positions in the office have also been filled, training coordinator and administration assistant.

The hard work of our staff, Tracey Parry and Neryl Mills, has been crucial to the successful operations of the office throughout this period of transition. We thank them for their dedication and service to the branch.

Christian Farley

General Manager

Royal Life Saving Society – TAS

VICTORIA

In 2012/13, Life Saving Victoria (LSV) continued to evolve into our community/government partnership as a water safety delivery mechanism for all Victorians.

This year was also the year we began to transition towards a new strategic plan. This new plan will see an orderly extension of recent developmental trends. In summary the themes will be:

- LSV from Anywhere - use of technology to bring us closer together.
- Everyday Lifesavers - everyone can play a role in water safety delivery.
- Resource Ready – adequate resourcing of all strategies and initiatives.

Under the “LSV from Anywhere” strategy, LSV has increasingly moved services and resources online, enabling our volunteers, staff, stakeholders and commercial clients to access LSV with the convenience of their own device in their own time. As examples of LSV from Anywhere, in 2012/13 we saw: the launch of the new online education portal – ‘Education from Anywhere’; the trial of online patrols sign-on and off – ‘Communication from Anywhere’; the introduction of the capability to do the theory component of the Bronze Medallion requalification on your mobile device – ‘Training from Anywhere’; and the development of a more comprehensive online registration process for commercial candidates – ‘Register from Anywhere’.

Making LSV “Resource Ready” involves adjusting activities to ensure they have a realistic approach to accessing financing and resourcing. Much work has been completed in this area to ensure LSV develops sustainable business models, matches expenditure expectations to income realities, and undertakes financially and resource resilient activities. While we are a not-for-profit entity, it is essential that LSV has a sound financial base to meet the many needs of our members and the community.

Life Saving Victoria (LSV) has worked to lead water safety advocacy in Victoria, again delivering its annual drowning report in November 2012. Key findings of the report, such as the sharp increase in drowning deaths of children aged 5-14, were used to inform targeted delivery of water safety programs, with extremely effective results.

The ‘Sink or Swim’ program was developed in response to an increase in drowning of children aged 5-14, and an increase in people drowning in inland waterways. The program incorporates free online teaching resources to deliver water safety messages across a range of classroom subject areas, together with targeted classroom water safety sessions delivered by LSV staff at schools in targeted at-risk areas. A total of 8752 students participated in these sessions.

LSV has also worked to lead advocacy around rock fishing safety. After securing funding through the Recreational Fishing Grants program, LSV commenced a three-year rock fishing safety project in 2012, incorporating extensive research and communications.

The first year of this project has seen delivery of a benchmarking survey, observational study and a successful rock fishing safety workshop, which attracted 22 Chinese rock fishers, as well as initial roll-out of advertising in Chinese and Vietnamese media.

LSV has worked to develop strategic partnerships in 2012/13, particularly in its commercial training delivery arm. LSV has won contracts to deliver training for the Victorian Department of Human Services (Sole Supplier), William Angliss Institute (Sole Supplier) and YMCA Victoria (Preferred Supplier). It is very pleasing and exciting for LSV to be selected for these training partnerships, further consolidating our position in the industry and recognising LSV as a market leader for these commercial training services.

A network of training partners has also been established to enable LSV to offer more diverse training opportunities and grow the training business. Through this network of partners, LSV is able to increase training opportunities, which not only enhances business but also allows specialisation in multiple areas.

LSV has continued to lead the industry in swimming and water safety education, running 11 successful Aquatic Professional Development Workshops for 160 teachers of swimming and water safety.

The Swim and Survive program has also continued to expand, with over 200 licensees now delivering the Royal Life Saving Society swimming and water safety program in Victoria. In support of our Swim and Survive licensees, two successful licensee seminars were introduced and hosted at LSV, bringing licensees together to provide updates on the industry, relevant curriculum and resources, an open forum for questions, sharing of ideas and to provide a networking opportunity.

LSV has delivered Keep Watch resources to 93 maternal and child health centres and 70 Swim and Survive licensees.

LSV recognises the importance of children learning to swim and having water safety skills, however it is becoming evident that one of the big challenges in creating ‘Everyday Lifesavers’ is the general swimming capability of the Victorian community. Our research into the swimming capability of students finishing primary school is nearing completion, with the key finding that either 40 per cent (parents view) or 60 per cent (teachers view) of Year 6 students cannot swim more than 50 metres. Improving this situation will be a key challenge for LSV. We will work with Government and the Aquatics Industry to provide this evidence and input into future guidelines, program development and services, to help ensure that students have an adequate swimming capability when finishing primary school. This is another important example of LSV’s Community-Government partnership in action.

LSV’s Education Department also continues to support Swim and Survive Licensees through industry engagement and marketing opportunities, while also working to grow the number of licensed providers of the Royal Life Saving national swimming and water safety initiative.

Report provided by Life Saving Victoria (LSV)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Royal Life Saving Society Western Australia Inc. (RLSSWA) is a member-based organisation with 45,237 members across four categories (Associated, Award, Sport and Supporter).

During 2012/13 a number of strategies were pursued to engage with, recognise and reward members who made a significant contribution to RLSSWA. Highlights being the presentation of 21 Bravery Awards and 39 State Honours at a variety of functions and forums.

RLSSWA has a strategic objective to develop effective and mutually productive working relationships with the national lifesaving network.

Progress was made at the 'state organisation-to-state organisation level', in particular with the Royal Life Saving Society NSW. This entailed the sharing of ideas and cooperation on common projects. This has enabled RLSSWA to build capacity and better service its local community.

In 2013 the Royal Life Saving Society - Australia and RLSSWA established an interim collaboration agreement to finalise a longer-term agreement to deal with the complex questions of sponsorship and product integrity in a way that will not disadvantage RLSSWA, the other States and Territory Member Organisations or the national collective. RLSSWA nominated Cameron Eglinton as a Director to the Royal Life Saving Society - Australia Board which was accepted by the Members of the Board. RLSSWA also collated data for the National Drowning Report.

Representatives from RLSSWA attended a number of national forums in 2012/13 including quarterly executive leadership meetings and the Australian Water Safety Conference 2012.

RLSSWA continued to pursue a range of long-term research projects aimed at identifying priorities and driving the ongoing development of lifesaving programs.

These research projects underpin the Society's expertise, knowledge and understanding of at-risk groups, dangerous activities and hazardous locations. To remain informed of trends and contemporary issues RLSSWA undertook the following activities in 2012/13:

- Monitoring drowning deaths on a monthly basis (via WA Coroner's Office)
- Reviewing records of hospitalisations following a near drowning
- Collation and analysis of injury reports from public swimming pools
- Collation and analysis of home pool barrier compliance
- Evaluation of community and education programs to measure relevance and effectiveness
- Statistical analysis of swimming and water safety education in non-government schools
- Review of relevant literature and reports both nationally and internationally

RLSSWA is building and supporting a cohesive, sustainable, financially secure national organisation, investing \$3,305,517 to deliver its Community Services. Funds were obtained from Support Partners and Sponsors, Government and Community Grants, and operational surpluses generated by our Social Enterprises.

Report provided by Royal Life Saving Society Western Australia Inc.

HONOURS

SENIOR AUSTRALIAN HONOURS

Meritorious Service Medal

	C.M. Calnan (SA)	1991	Daphne Read (NT)
	R.W. Moyle (SA)	1992	Gerald Brameld (QLD)
	B. Roberts (QLD)	1992	Nigel R. Carins (TAS)
	John Robertson Spender (QLD)	1992	John Coles (SA)
1959	Bruce Clifton (NSW)	1992	John Kew (SA)
1959	D. Ebsworth (TAS)	1992	Philip Marquet (NSW)
1959	E.C.S. Meldrum (SA)	1992	K. L. Milne (SA)
1959	A. Park (TAS)	1992	Janice Oates (SA)
1959	R. Penwright (TAS)	1992	Robyn Pryce-Jones (TAS)
1959	B. Plaister (TAS)	1992	Barry J. Stanton (SA)
1959	Douglas Robert Plaister (TAS)	1993	Dr Mervyn Allen (SA)
1959	C. Webb (TAS)	1993	Keith Draper (NSW)
1960	M. Church (TAS)	1993	John McClelland (QLD)
1960	H.L. Dowding (TAS)	1994	G.H. Krueger (SA)
1960	Lady Harris (TAS)	1994	Margaret Krueger (SA)
1960	J. Liptrot (TAS)	1994	Vincent McStraw (SA)
1960	M. Plaister (TAS)	1995	John W. Harvey (SA)
1960	N.J. Ruddock (TAS)	1995	Christopher Planeta (SA)
1960	L.W. Salmon (TAS)	1996	Alan B. Swinton (TAS)
1960	V..J Shaw (TAS)	1996	Robert G. Yule (SA)
1960	S. Thyne (TAS)	1997	Theresa Leopold (SA)
1960	D.N. Wicks (TAS)	1997	Ann Price (SA)
1961	R.S. Collins (TAS)	1998	Edward Cross (NSW)
1961	J. Ingles (TAS)	1998	Anita Eifler (WA)
1961	Basil Osborne (TAS)	1998	Faye Milham (SA)
1961	V.B. Plaister (TAS)	1998	Warwick Twigg (NSW)
1963	Francis John Henry (NSW)	1999	Margaret Clayton (VIC)
1963	George Turnbull (NSW)	1999	Rex Hopkins (VIC)
1964	B. Brain (TAS)	1999	John Law (QLD)
1971	Cam Fitzgerald (VIC)	1999	Heather MacGowan (WA)
1972	Dennis Brian Colquhoun (NSW)	1999	Ian Mackie (Nat)
1977	K.J. Shields (VIC)	1999	Dr Gerard Meijer (QLD)
1978	Bruce Campbell (QLD)	1999	Frances May Murphy (WA)
1978	M.L. Eddey (VIC)	1999	Barbara Richards (VIC)
1978	R. Firkin (NSW)	2000	David Bennetts (NSW)
1978	J. Smith (NSW)	2000	Mark Needham (SA)
1978	Ken Southgate (QLD)	2000	Faye Trevor (SA)
1978	R.S. Veale (VIC)	2001	C. Dedman (SA)
1979	W. Blakeney (NSW)	2001	Professor John Pearn (QLD)
1979	Stanley Blanks (VIC)	2002	Dr Mel Bergin (NSW)
1979	Justin Bradley (NSW)	2002	Audrey Severn (QLD)
1979	N.R. Collins (TAS)	2002	Albert Trevenar (NSW)
1979	J. Conabere OBE (VIC)	2003	Lesley Bartlett (SA)
1979	V.J. Forde (SA)	2003	Terence Higgins (ACT)
1979	D. Johannes (NSW)	2003	Harold James Hird (ACT)
1979	Brian Prideaux (NSW)	2003	David J. Mourant (TAS)
1979	Phillip Rice (VIC)	2003	Patricia Quick (SA)
1981	D. Bateman (VIC)	2004	Jan Burton (SA)
1982	Kevin N. Burrowes (SA)	2004	David Dewar (SA)
1982	Sir Walter Leonard (NSW)	2005	Hayden Lamshed (SA)
1982	Gwendolyn Welford (QLD)	2005	Faye Milham (SA)
1984	Raymond M. Martin (SA)	2006	Gaynor Power (SA)
1984	Ailsa Nicholson (QLD)	2008	Karen Freak (SA)
1985	Sheena Dyason (QLD)	2008	David Grant (VIC)
1985	Lester Vivian Marston (WA)	2008	Gary W. Kearney (TAS)
1986	Victor John Dennis (WA)	2008	Les Mole (QLD)
1986	J. Eyles (NSW)	2009	Ernita McGrath (NSW)
1986	C. Heckenberg (NSW)	2009	Jane Minear (SA)
1986	P. Neenan National	2009	Anne Rule (SA)
1986	E.D. Vass (NSW)		
1990	Ken G. Richter (SA)		

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 (SA)
1999	Raymond M Martin (SA)
2000	John Kew (SA)
2000	G.H. Krueger (SA)
2000	Margaret Krueger (SA)
2001	Ann Price (SA)
2003	Gerald Brameld (QLD)
2003	John McClelland (QLD)
2004	Bruce Campbell (QLD)
2004	Anita Eifler (WA)
2004	Ross Williams (QLD)
2005	Alan B. Swinton (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 (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 (TAS)

Vice President

1981	Robert Stinson (QLD)
1988	Neville Bayfield (NSW)
1994	Heather MacGowan (WA)
1997	Terence Higgins (ACT)
2003	Shayne Baker (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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Department of Regional Australia,
Local Government, Arts and Sport
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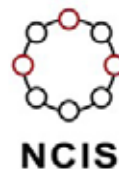
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Royal Life Saving

ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY - AUSTRALIA

EVERYONE CAN BE A LIFESAVER

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