

South East Queensland Drowning Report

A 10-year analysis:
2011/12 to 2020/21



ROYAL LIFE SAVING
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, sport, leadership and participation and international networks.

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> OUR VISION

**A water-loving nation
free from drowning.**

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

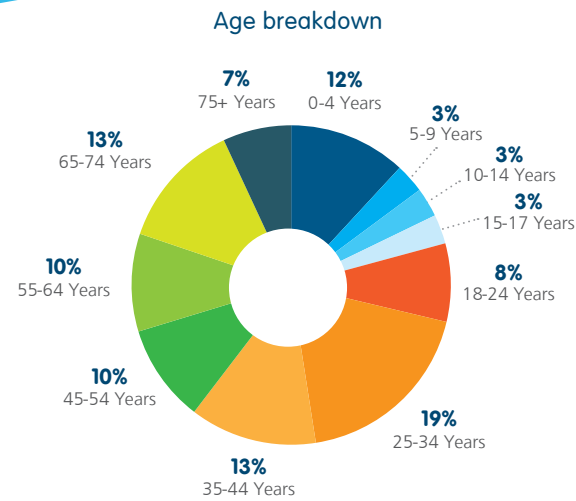
Royal Life Saving Society – Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of our national office in Ultimo, Sydney are the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. We pay our respects to Australia's First Nations cultural and spiritual connections to water, and acknowledge the land where we work, live, and play always was and always will be Aboriginal land.



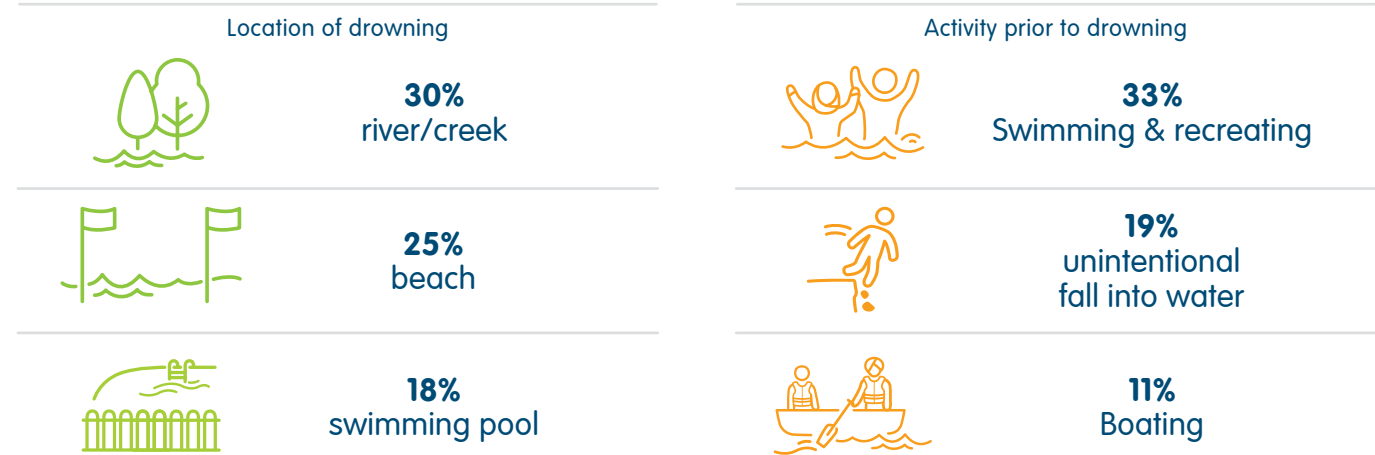
South East Queensland Drowning Summary

> 10 year analysis 2011/12 to 2021/22

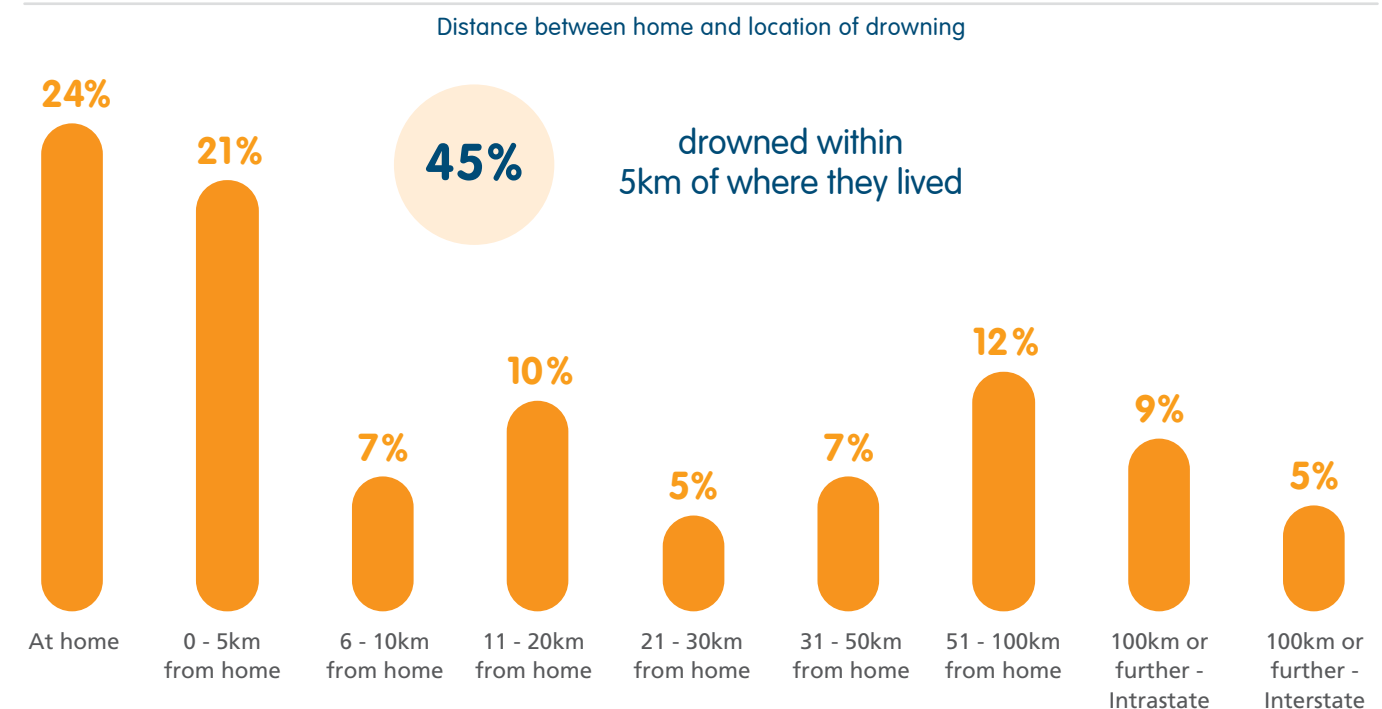
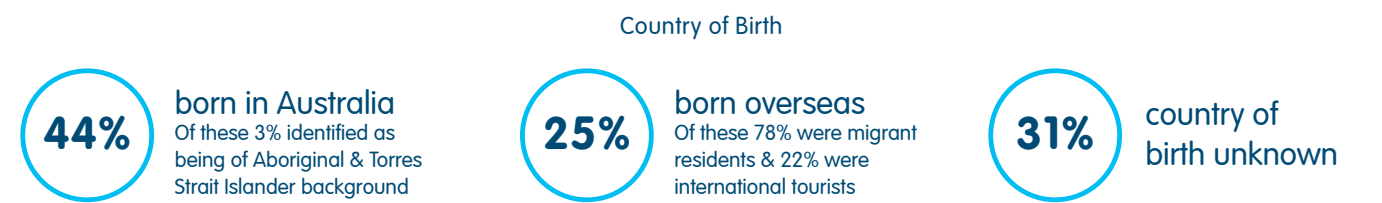
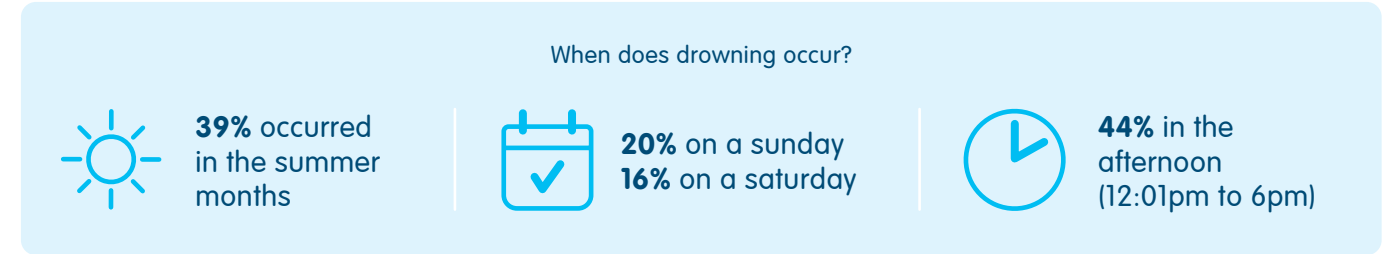
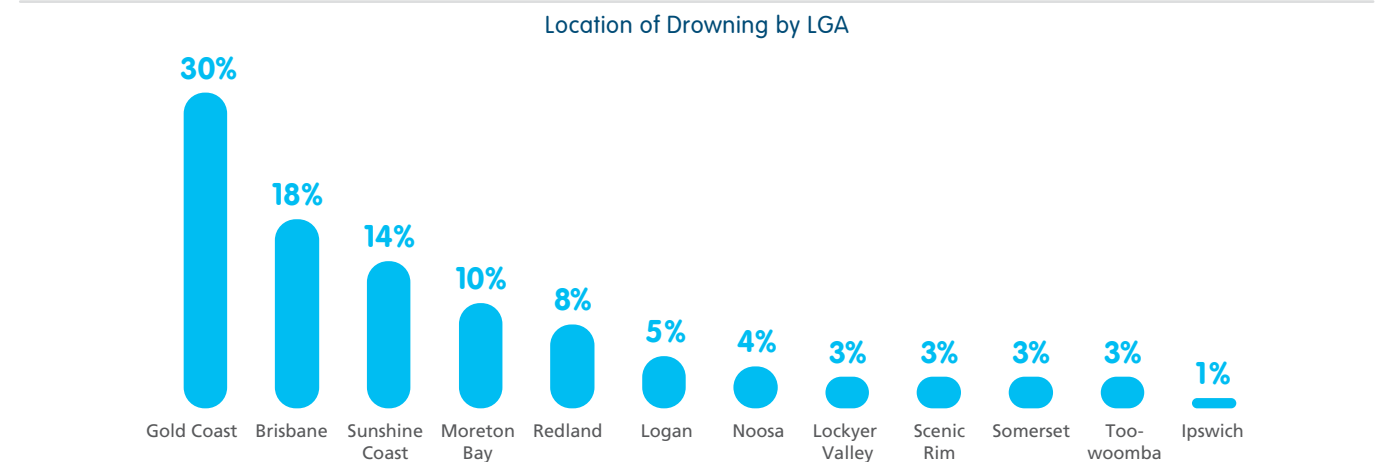
366 people drowned in South East Queensland



77% of drowning deaths were males



Of these:
 76% were private pools (primarily single-dwelling domestic pools)
 15% were communal pools (hotels, motels, resorts, holiday apartment complexes)
 9% were public pools (council owned pools, school and university pools, commercial learn to swim centres)



> OVERVIEW

This report provides an overview of fatal drownings in South East Queensland over the decade 2011/12 to 2021/22. It consists of an analysis of drowning statistics and brief profiles of South East Queensland's 12 Local Government Areas.

366 people fatally drowned in South East Queensland between 2011/12 and 2021/22.

Approximately 1,098 people are estimated to have experienced a non-fatal drowning incident.

People

77% of people who drowned were male and 34% were aged between 25 and 44 years. 20% of people who drowned over the decade were over the age of 65. The 0–4-year age group had the highest number of drowning deaths in pools (32%). Compared to other age groups, children aged 0-14 more frequently drowned at home or close to home (30%) and in swimming pools (40%). A large portion of people aged 65 and older who fatally drowned also drowned at home or close to home (28%).

Places

Of all location types, the largest number of drownings occurred at a river/creek (30%). 25% of drowning deaths occurred at beaches. 18% of drowning deaths occurred at a swimming pool, 76% of which were private pools. Temporal trends indicate 2016/17 had the highest number of drowning deaths in pools (18%), declining to 2% in 2020/21. 45% of people who drowned did so within 5km of where they lived.

Activities

Swimming and recreating were the leading activity victims engaged in prior to drowning (33%), with the largest number of drowning deaths occurring in the summer months (39%), on a Sunday (20%) and in the afternoon (45%).

Risk Factors

Of the people whose swimming ability was known (65%), only 3% who drowned were recorded as competent swimmers. 25% of drownings involved alcohol use, 76% of whom were male and 40% of whom were aged 25-44 years. Of the people over the age of 65 who drowned, 36% of these people were found to have a pre-existing medical condition.

Populations

City of Gold Coast had the highest number of drowning deaths of the 12 Local Government Areas analysed (30% of the total), followed by City of Brisbane (18%) and the Sunshine Coast Region (14%).

25% of people who drowned were born overseas. 77% of these were Australian residents and 23% were visitors from overseas. 13.2% of people in Queensland use a language other than English at home. The top five languages are Mandarin, Filipino/Tagalog, Vietnamese, Punjabi and Spanish.

> METHODS

Royal Life Saving Society – Australia sourced the data used in this report from the Royal Life Saving National Fatal Drowning Database. Data from the RLSSA Database have been collated from the National Coronial Information System (NCIS), State/Territory Coronial offices and media monitoring. Information contained within the NCIS is made available by the Victorian Department of Justice and Community Safety.

Drowning deaths as a result of suicide or homicide, deaths from natural causes, shark and crocodile attacks, or hypothermia are excluded. All data in this report relates to drowning as a contributory cause of death. Figures may change depending on ongoing coronial investigations and findings. Numbers of drowning where there are less than five cases cannot be reported due to ethical constraints and potential of identification of the person/s.

This report covers the financial year period 2011/12 to 2021/22 and presents data on drowning deaths that occurred within the South East Queensland region. Data is correct as of 26 April 2023.

For the purposes of this report, South East Queensland consists of the following 12 Local Government Areas:

- City of Brisbane
- City of Ipswich
- City of Gold Coast
- Lockyer Valley Region
- Logan City
- Moreton Bay Region
- Shire of Noosa
- Redland City
- Scenic Rim Region
- Somerset Region
- Sunshine Coast Region
- Toowoomba Region

Definitions for activities are coded as per the Royal Life Saving Drowning Database Definitions manual and include the following:

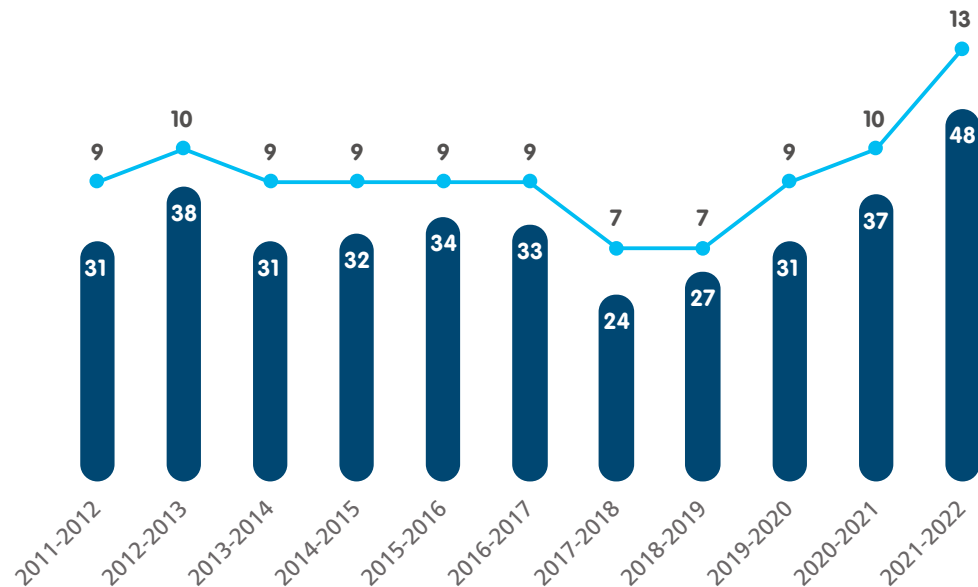
- > **Swimming and recreating:** swimming, floating, playing, wading
- > **Boating:** water-based wind or motor-powered vessels, boats, ships and personal watercraft
- > **Fall:** when a person unintentionally entered the water
- > **Jumped in:** when the person intentionally jumped into the water (e.g. from a height)
- > **Unknown:** Activity prior to drowning unknown is often used as a proxy for person being alone at the time of the incident
- > **Other:** due to small numbers, all other activities were grouped together into this category

Information for all the community profiles, including population demographics, household income and employment status was based on the most recent 2021 census data from the Local Government Area QuickStats pages.⁵



366 people fatally drowned in South East Queensland between 2011/12 and 2021/22

Drownings 2011/12 to 2021/22



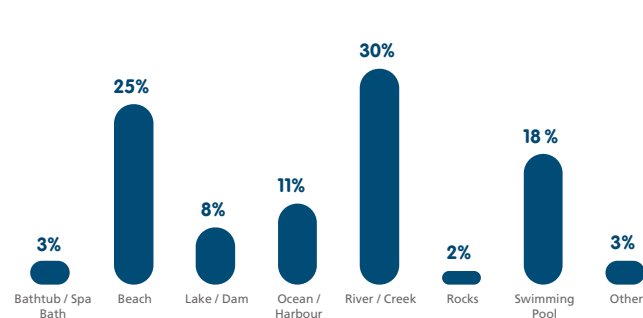
Location of drowning



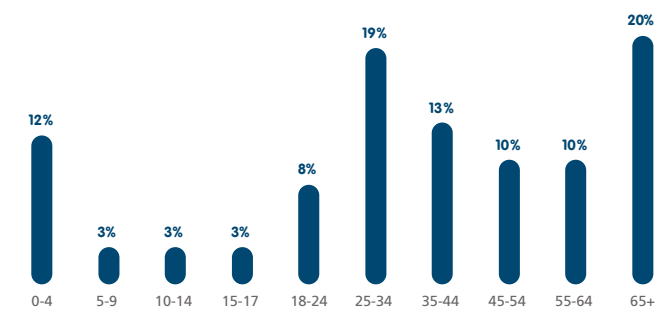
77% of drowning deaths were males

Approximately 1,098 people are estimated to have experienced a non-fatal drowning incident.

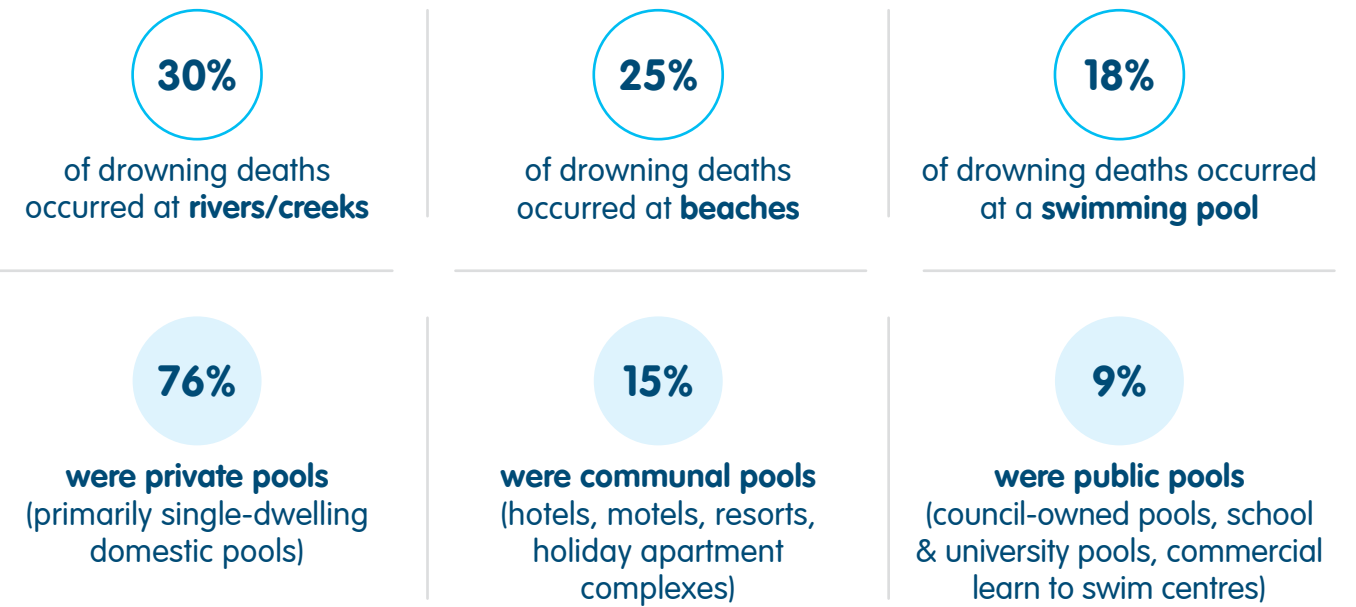
Drownings by place



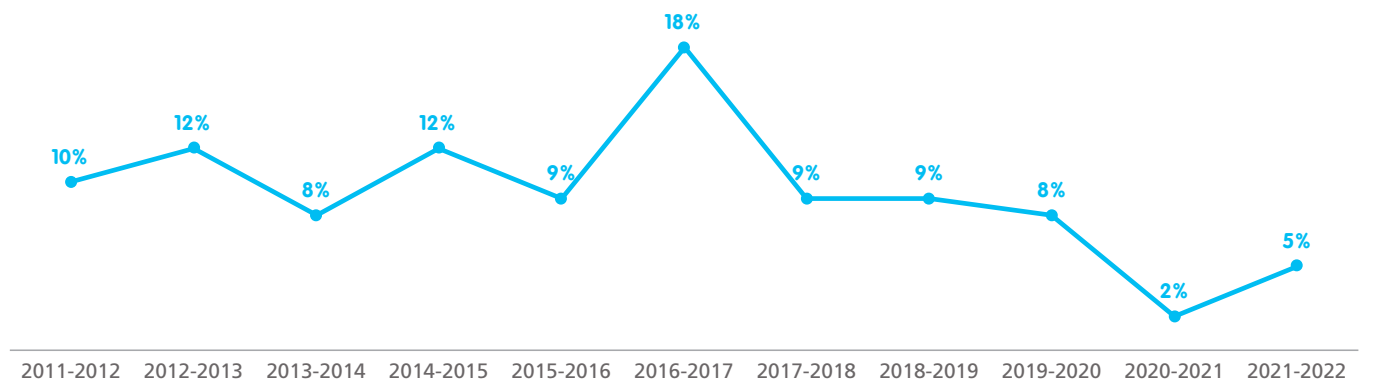
Drownings by age



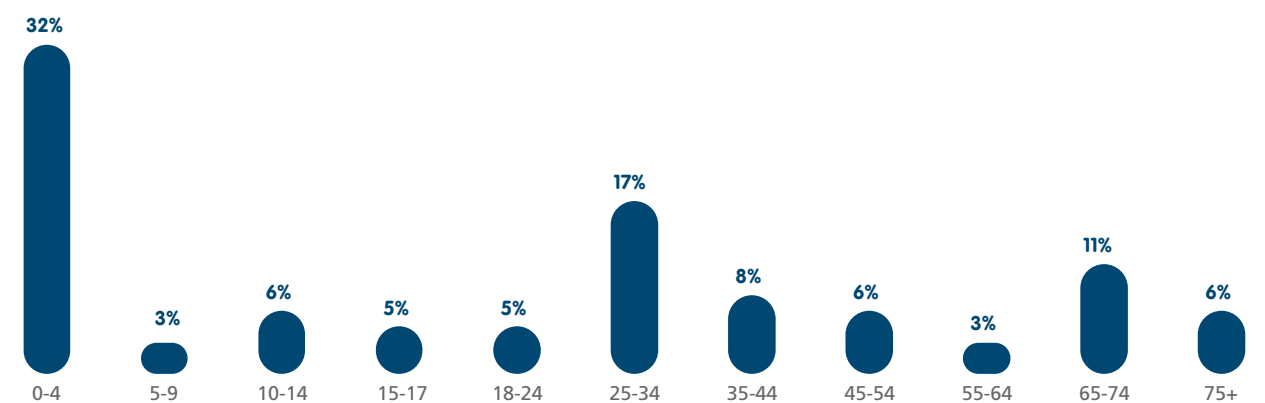
More people drowned in rivers/creeks than at beaches or in swimming pools



Drowning in swimming pools



Drowning in swimming pools by age group



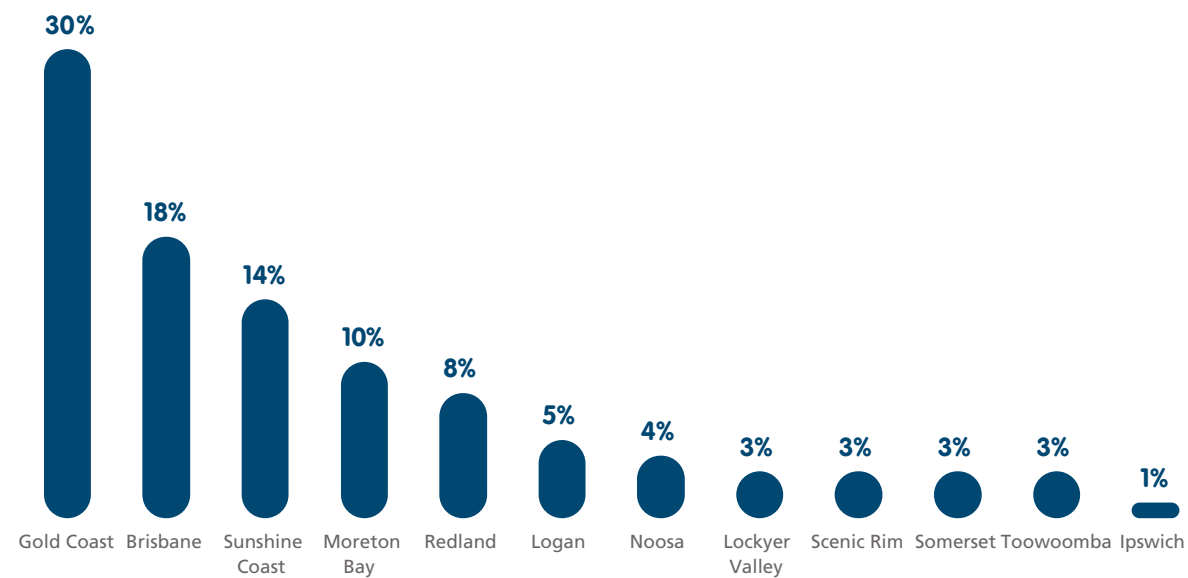
The Gold Coast Region accounted for nearly a third of drowning fatalities

The Gold Coast Region had the largest number of drowning fatalities of any Local Government Area at 30%, followed by Brisbane City at 18% and Sunshine Coast Region at 14%.



45% of drowning incidents occurred at home or within 5km of where the person lived.

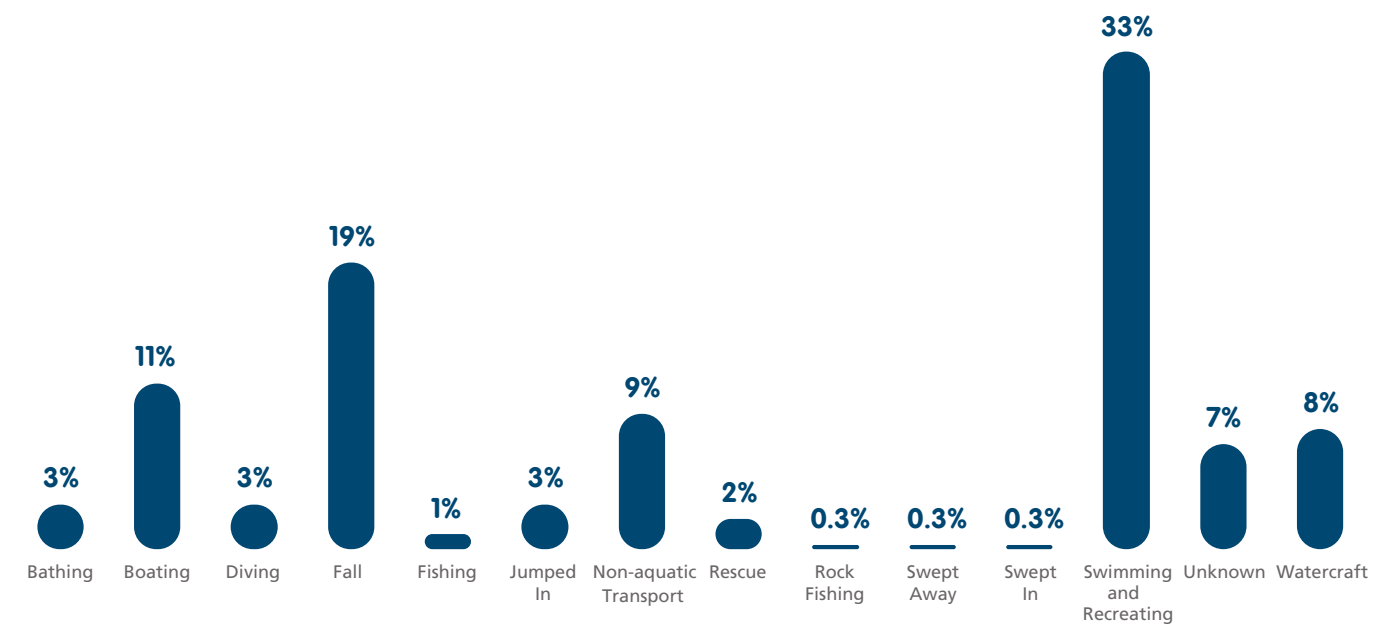
Drownings by Local Government Area



Swimming and recreating was the leading activity prior to fatal drowning



Activity prior to drowning in South Queensland



Main location, activity and distance from home by age group

Age group	Location	Primary activity	Distance from home
0-4 Years	Swimming Pool	Fall	Home
5-9 Years	Lake/Dam	Swimming/Recreating	0-5km
10-14 Years	Swimming pool	Swimming/Recreating	Home
15-17 Years	River/Creek & Swimming pool	Swimming/Recreating	0-5km & 11-20km
18-24 Years	River/Creek	Swimming/Recreating	31-50km
25-34 Years	River/Creek	Swimming/Recreating	51-100km
35-44 Years	Beach	Swimming/Recreating	51-100km
45-54 Years	Beach & River/Creek	Swimming/Recreating	0-5km
55-64 Years	River/Creek	Swimming/Recreating	0-5km & Interstate (>100km)

Most drownings occurred in the hotter months

Drownings most commonly occurred



39%
in Summer

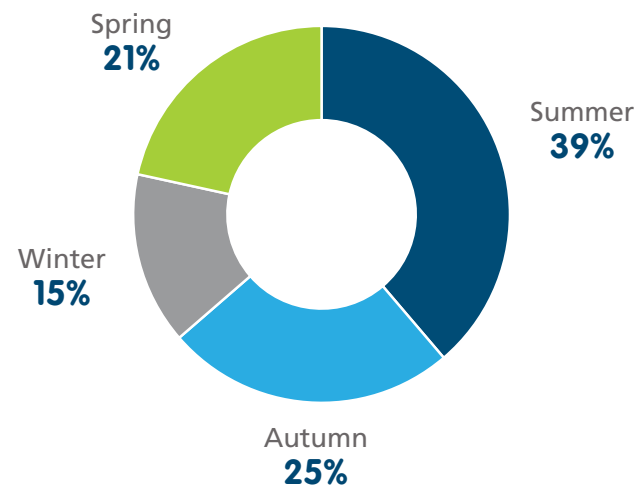


36%
on the weekend



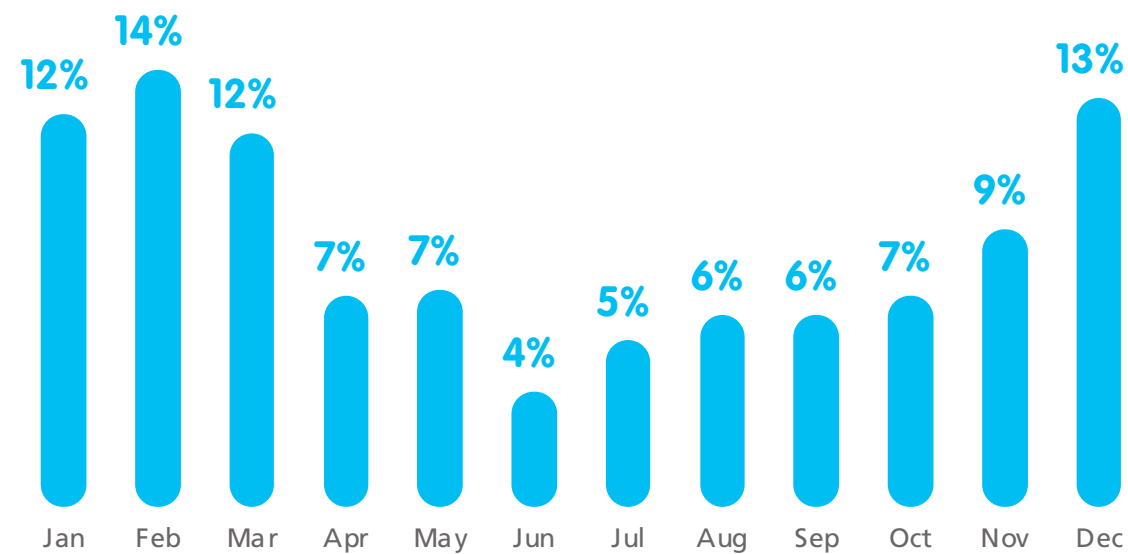
45%
in the afternoon

Drowning deaths by season

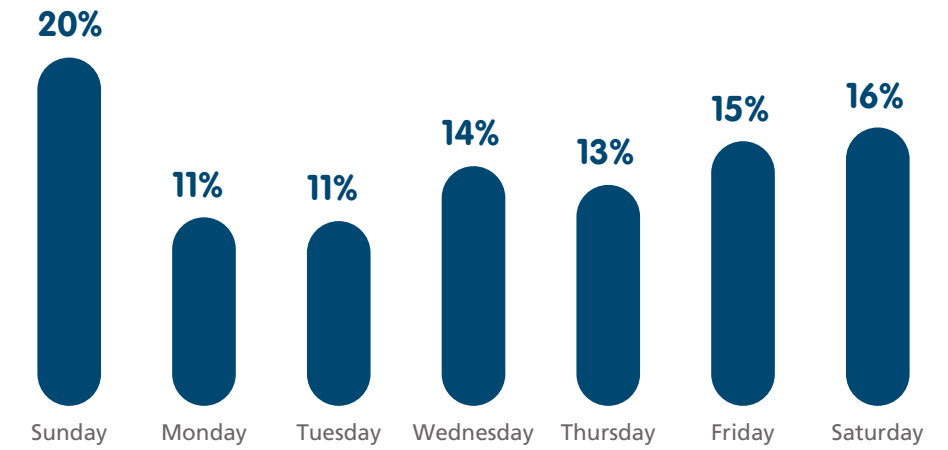


- > In summer (37%), spring (38%), and autumn (33%) the leading activity prior to drowning was swimming and recreating.
- > In winter, the leading activity prior to drowning was an unintentional fall into the water (22%).
- > 36% of drownings occurred on the weekend.

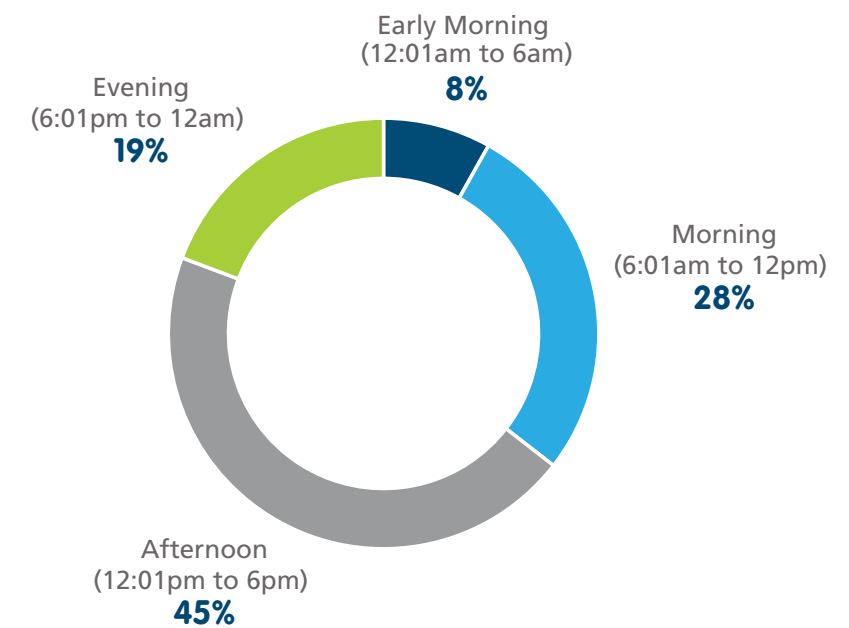
Drowning deaths by month



Drowning deaths by day of the week



Drowning deaths at inland waterways by time of the day



Overseas-born people were not over-represented in drowning statistics



25%
were
born overseas



77%
were
Australian residents



23%
were
overseas visitors

> FOUR KEY RISK FACTORS

Pre-existing medical condition



38%

recorded a pre-existing
medical condition

Alcohol



26%

recorded a BAC $\geq 0.05\%$ alcohol

Drugs



34%

recorded drugs



While swimming ability was unknown in 35% of cases, only **3% of people who drowned were recorded as competent swimmers.**



> CATEGORIES

People / Populations

Drowning risk changes throughout a person's lifespan. As young children become more mobile, the risk of drowning increases. As teenagers reach adulthood, legal drinking age and gain greater independence, their risk of drowning also increases. Males are known to be at higher risk of drowning than females, particularly during adolescence and early adulthood as risk-taking behaviour becomes more apparent. Pre-existing medical conditions and medications also pose a drowning risk. This is especially relevant to older people as the proportion of people with medical conditions increases with age.

Drowning prevention strategies need to be tailored to specific life stages, taking changes in mobility, independence and general health into consideration. By highlighting life stages with increased drowning risk, prevention efforts can be focused according to need. In part, this is about reducing drowning during high-risk periods but equally important is skill development in preparing for approaching life changes.

Children aged 0-4

Toddlers are curious and increasingly mobile but lack an understanding of water-related hazards, making them vulnerable to drowning in and around the home, particularly in private swimming pools and dams on rural properties. Parental and carer supervision is considered critical to preventing drowning, so educating each new generation is a high priority. Barriers to water, usually in the form of swimming pool fencing, are a well-accepted and effective approach.

Example actions to reduce drowning in children aged 0-4:

- > Media campaigns targeting parents and carers to raise awareness and promote prevention strategies such as supervision
- > Proactive implementation of pool inspection systems by Government authorities
- > First aid and CPR training courses for parents and carers

Males

Males continue to be over-represented in drowning statistics. This trend is especially apparent during adolescence and early adulthood, a time of increasing independence. Drowning is often attributed to higher exposure due to increased participation rates, inflated confidence levels that may not reflect abilities, the influence of peer pressure and an increased likelihood to engage in risk-taking behaviours. Early adoption of safe behaviours may have flow-on benefits through adulthood. Secondary schools, universities and sport and recreation clubs may represent a good entry point for skill and awareness development.

Example actions to reduce drowning in males:

- > Targeted safety campaigns to promote safe behaviour around water
- > Random testing for Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) and drug consumption on waterways
- > Safety advice, signage and active enforcement

Older People (65+)

Australia has an ageing population, with older people living longer and having healthier lives than those of previous generations. The low impact nature of aquatic activity makes it an ideal form of physical activity and recreation for older people. However, reduced physical ability and pre-existing medical conditions contribute to the drowning risk in this demographic. Reducing drowning among older people is a complex issue and limited progress has been made. When looking at demography, a large percentage of drowning deaths in the region were from older people, comparative to the national average. Correspondingly, the percentage of the population aged over 65 is also higher in the region than the national average. On the Gold Coast, which had the largest share of the drowning burden, 18% of the population are aged over 65, making this group the largest segment of the population by age group.

Example actions to reduce drowning in older people:

- > Targeted campaigns focused on the role of pre-existing medical conditions and medications
- > Promotion of the benefits of aquatics for older people as part of an active, healthy lifestyle
- > Industry programs encouraging older people to test and redevelop their skills in controlled environments

Places

Drowning occurs in all types of aquatic environments and each environment poses unique risks. Conditions can change rapidly, particularly in and around natural waterways, and visitors may be unfamiliar with local hazards. Visitors need to be able to identify these hazards and respond appropriately.

Encouraging safe aquatic recreation is also important. Australian beaches, oceans, rivers, lakes and swimming pools provide opportunities for exercise, education and leisure. These locations provide significant value to local communities and future investment in infrastructure needs should be considered.

Targeted drowning prevention strategies enable environment-specific hazards to be addressed. It should be noted that local waterways require localised prevention strategies. Risk assessments undertaken at high-risk drowning locations can help to inform local risk management plans, in conjunction with relevant stakeholders.

Rivers & creeks

Rivers and creeks continue to be a leading location for drowning. Rapidly changing conditions and hidden dangers, such as strong currents, submerged objects, slippery or crumbling banks and cold water, can lead to people getting into difficulty. Unlike other aquatic locations, inland waterways are not regularly patrolled by a lifesaving or maritime service. In the case of an emergency, timely medical assistance may be impacted by geographic isolation and a lack of telecommunication facilities.

Example actions to reduce drowning in rivers and creeks may be:

- > Location-specific risk management plans
- > Signage and safety information
- > Enforcement of alcohol-free zones

Beaches

Spending time at beaches and in the ocean is a popular pastime, with our coast being internationally recognised and making a significant economic contribution through the domestic and international tourism sectors. Too often, people visiting the coast do not recognise or underestimate the associated risks and hazards, exposing themselves and others to dangers unnecessarily. In addition, coastal environments record relatively high numbers of non-drowning-related fatalities, including interactions with wildlife and medical episodes or injuries, many of which are also preventable.

Example actions to reduce drowning on beaches:

- > Maintaining and expanding professional lifesaving and rescue services
- > Installation of public rescue equipment in specific locations
- > Targeted safety campaigns to raise awareness of hazards

Swimming pools

Most swimming pool drowning deaths occurred in home pools, however, the number of drowning deaths in communal pools, such as hotels, motels, resorts and apartment complexes is high in this region comparative to the national average; and, drowning deaths in public pools are also high comparative to the national average.

Preventing drowning in swimming pools is a priority because public access to safe aquatic recreation is vital to reducing drowning in Australia. Aquatic facilities allow skill development and practice in a more controlled environment. It is critical that supervision is in place, and for publicly accessible pools professional lifeguard supervision and sufficient management systems should be in place to ensure patron safety.

Example actions to reduce drowning may be:

- > Development of codes of practice and safety guidelines for communal pools (hotels, motels & body corporates)
- > Industry programs targeting vulnerable swimmers at aquatic facilities
- > Implementation of risk management and audit of procedures

Activities / Risk Factors

People undertake a range of activities in, on and around the water, with many of these pursuits increasing in popularity in recent years. However, there are inherent risks associated with many of these activities.

Swimming and recreating is the leading activity being undertaken prior to drowning in most locations, including coastal and inland waterways. Swimming skills and ability impact on safety across many other activities including boating, watercraft and falls. Swimming and water safety skills are vital for people of all ages and populations, and in all places. A lack of appropriate skills or an overestimation of skills is a significant risk factor for drowning.

Swimming and water safety skills

97% of people who drowned in the region were not competent swimmers.

Swimming and water safety skills are widely recognised as the key to preventing drowning, with a lack of swimming skills and water safety knowledge considered to be a major risk factor for drowning. Drowning in open water environments reinforces the importance of learning a full range of swimming, water safety and survival skills, and a knowledge of hazards and risks in different locations and situations. In order to reduce the rate of drowning while swimming, a strong focus on swimming and water safety skills is needed.

The development of swimming and water safety skills in children continues to be a concern, with up to 40% of children leaving primary school unable to achieve the minimum National Benchmark for swimming and water safety skills. Research shows that participation in commercial learn to swim programs declines before 8 years of age, well before many children have developed a comprehensive set of swimming and water safety skills. This has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, where over 10 million swimming lessons were missed, risking a generation of non-swimmers if the 8-12 year old group does not catch up on swimming and water safety education and achieve the national swimming and water safety benchmarks of being able to swim for 50m unassisted and float for 2 minutes unassisted.

Access to swimming and water safety education is not evenly spread across all populations. Research shows inequalities in rural and remote communities, those from lower socioeconomic areas, multicultural communities, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, who are all less likely to be attending swimming and water safety education programs.

Example actions to increase swimming and water safety skills:

- › Subsidised vacation swimming programs
- › Vouchers to subsidise the cost of swimming and water safety education
- › Increased aquatic facility infrastructure in regional and remote locations

Alcohol and drugs

Alcohol continues to be a significant contributing factor in drowning and aquatic-related injury. Alcohol consumption impairs cognitive function, decision making, risk perception and reaction time, all of which may increase the risk of drowning. Illicit drug use is also a risk factor for drowning. Illicit substances can numb the senses, reduce inhibitions and distort the perception of risk. The most common illicit drugs involved in drowning deaths are cannabis and methamphetamine. It is important to note that legal drugs, such as prescription and over the counter medicines, can also increase the risk of drowning.

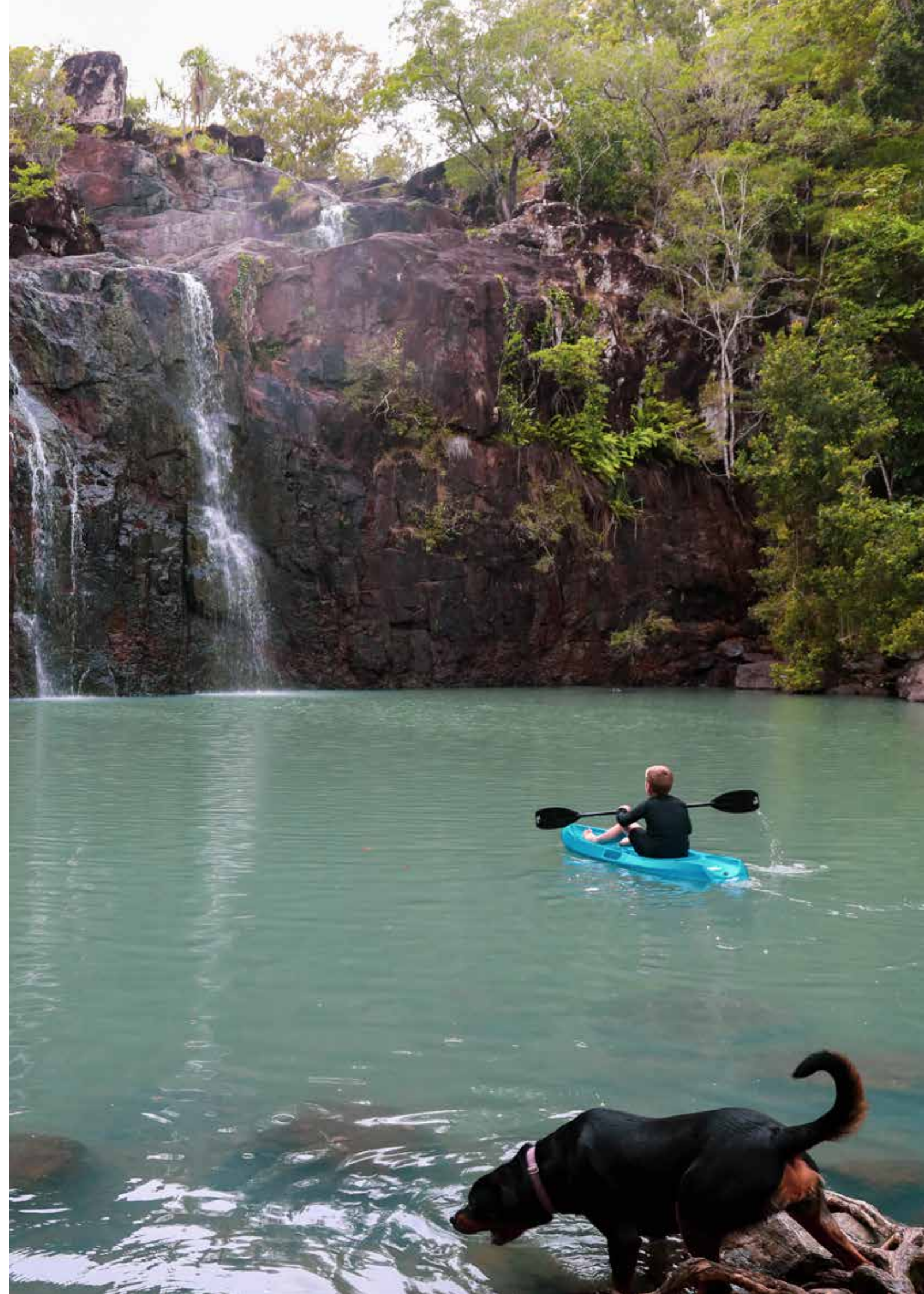
Example actions to reduce drowning may be:

- › Education programs targeting secondary school students
- › Restrictions prohibiting alcohol consumption in public aquatic locations
- › Enforced legislation regarding drink driving of vessels

Pre-existing medical conditions

Pre-existing medical conditions can contribute to increased risk of drowning through reduced mobility, impaired senses and higher risk of experiencing a medical episode while swimming or recreating. Royal Life Saving research has shown that between 2009 and 2019, 116 Australians drowned as a result of falls into water, 89% of whom had a pre-existing medical condition. Ensuring regular medical check-ups, as well as ongoing physical activity can reduce drowning as a result of pre-existing medical conditions.

In addition, see 'Older People' description and actions.



City of Brisbane

City of Brisbane is located along the Brisbane River and is an hour drive from both the Sunshine and Gold Coasts. The Brisbane area has 190 suburbs that stretch east to the coast of Moreton Bay and south toward Redland Bay. The original inhabitants of Brisbane are the Turrbal and Jagera peoples.

Estimated 2021 population: 1,242,825⁵

- 17% were children aged 0 to 14 years
- 14% were aged 15 to 24 years
- 17% were aged 25 to 34 years
- 15% were aged 35 to 44 years
- 13% were aged 45 to 54 years
- 10% were aged 55 to 64 years
- 14% were aged 65 years and over
- 2% identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
- 32% were born overseas

Weekly household income

- 13% <\$650 per week
- 31% ≥ \$3000 per week
- Median household income \$2,068

Employment status

- 86% were employed (people aged 15+ years)
- 5% unemployed

Housing status

- 59% own their own home
- 38% were renting
- 3% tenure unknown

Aquatic Facilities

City of Brisbane has 22 council swimming pools, which are open seasonally. They are owned by the council but privately operated. Pool facilities differ between locations. Swimming pool entry fees and opening hours are available on the Brisbane City Council website.

City of Ipswich

City of Ipswich is located 40km southwest of Brisbane city area along the Bremer River. To the west is Lockyer and Fassifern Valley. The original inhabitants of the Ipswich region are the Ugarapul people. Ipswich is known as Tulumur in the Yagara language.

Estimated 2021 population: 229,208⁵

- 23% were children aged 0 to 14 years
- 13% were aged 15 to 24 years
- 15% were aged 25 to 34 years
- 14% were aged 35 to 44 years
- 12% were aged 45 to 54 years
- 10% were aged 55 to 64 years
- 11% were aged 65 years and over
- 6% identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
- 27% were born overseas
- 14% <\$650 per week
- 18% ≥ \$3000 per week
- Median household income \$1,668

Employment status

- 85% were employed (people aged 15+ years)
- 7% unemployed

Housing status

- 58% own their own home
- 39% were renting
- 2% tenure unknown

Aquatic Facilities

City of Ipswich has four centres and one zero depth water park. Swimming pool entry fees and opening hours are available on the Ipswich City Council website.

City of Gold Coast

The City of Gold Coast is popularly known as Surfers Paradise. It is located on the coast 66km south of Brisbane and includes several islands, including Stradbroke Island. The suburb of Coolangatta, 30km south of Gold Coast central business district, is the closest suburb to the New South Wales border. Duranbah beach is on the border of Queensland and New South Wales. The original inhabitants of the area are the Kombumerri of the Yugambah language speaking peoples.

Estimated 2021 population: 625,087⁵

- 18% were children aged 0 to 14 years
- 12% were aged 15 to 24 years
- 14% were aged 25 to 34 years
- 14% were aged 35 to 44 years
- 14% were aged 45 to 54 years
- 12% were aged 55 to 64 years
- 18% were aged 65 years
- 2% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- 27% were born overseas

Weekly household income

- 16% <\$650 per week
- 21% ≥ \$3000 per week
- Median household income \$1,691

Employment status

- 85% were employed (people aged 15+ years)
- 5% unemployed

Housing status

- 63% own their own home
- 34% were renting
- 2% tenure unknown

Aquatic Facilities

City of Gold Coast has seven aquatic centres, which are owned by the council and managed by the Council, City Venue Management (Miami and Helensvale Aquatic centres) and Belgravia Leisure (Mudgeeraba and Nerang Aquatic Centres). Opening hours and entry prices can be found on the City of Gold Coast website.

Lockyer Valley Region

The Lockyer Valley Region is located between City of Ipswich (East) and Toowoomba (West) and is about 100km west of the coast. The area is remote and has over 60 parks and nature reserves. Major town centres include Gatton and Laidly. It also includes the Warrego Highway. The Lockyer Valley Region is on the the traditional lands of the Yuggera and Ugarapul peoples.

Estimated 2021 population: 41,101⁵

- 19% were children aged 0 to 14 years
- 13% were aged 15 to 24 years
- 13% were aged 25 to 34 years
- 12% were aged 35 to 44 years
- 13% were aged 45 to 54 years
- 13% were aged 55 to 64 years
- 18% were aged 65 years and over
- 5% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- 21% were born overseas

Weekly household income

- 18% <\$650 per week
- 15% ≥ \$3000 per week
- Median household income \$1,457

Employment status

- 86% were employed (people aged 15+ years)
- 5% unemployed

Housing status

- 74% own their own home
- 23% were renting
- 2% tenure unknown

Aquatic Facilities

The Lockyer Valley Region has two swimming facilities operated by Swim Fit. Seasonal hours and lessons can be found on the Lockyer Valley council website and the Swim Fit website or Facebook page.

Logan City

Logan City is located between Brisbane and the City of Gold Coast. It borders the Scenic Rim Region, City of Ipswich and Redland City. Logan City is 48km away from the Brisbane CBD and has 70 suburbs. Logan City is on the traditional lands of the Turrbal, Yugara/Yugarapul and Yugambah language-speaking peoples.

Estimated 2021 population: 345,098⁵

- 22% were children aged 0 to 14 years
- 13% were aged 15 to 24 years
- 15% were aged 25 to 34 years
- 14% were aged 35 to 44 years
- 12% were aged 45 to 54 years
- 11% were aged 55 to 64 years
- 12% were aged 65 years and over
- 4% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- 34% were born overseas

Weekly household income

- 15% <\$650 per week
- 18% ≥ \$3000 per week
- Median household income \$1,616

Employment status

- 85% were employed (people aged 15+ years)
- 7% unemployed

Housing status

- 63% own their own home
- 35% were renting
- 2% tenure unknown

Aquatic Facilities

Logan City has six aquatic centres, two of which contain both an indoor and outdoor pool (Beenleigh and Logan City North Aquatic Centres), two are only outdoor pools (Bethania and Eagleby Aquatic Centres), and two are only indoor pools (Gould Adam Park and Logan West Aquatic Centres). Hours of operation and pool fees can be found on the Logan City City website.

Moreton Bay Region

Moreton Bay Region is located along the eastern coast of Queensland, 14km north of Brisbane City. Moreton Bay Region consists of 94 suburbs, including the southern part of Bribie Island, and has 294 km of coastline and waterways. The traditional owners of the Moreton Bay Region are the Kabi Kabi, Jinibara and Turrbal peoples.

Estimated 2021 population: 476,340⁵

- 20% were children aged 0 to 14 years
- 12% were aged 15 to 24 years
- 12% were aged 25 to 34 years
- 13% were aged 35 to 44 years
- 13% were aged 45 to 54 years
- 12% were aged 55 to 64 years
- 18% were aged 65 years and over
- 4% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- 25% were born overseas

Weekly household income

- 16% <\$650 per week
- 20% ≥ \$3000 per week
- Median household income \$1,648

Employment status

- 85% were employed (people aged 15+ years)
- 6% unemployed

Housing status

- 66% own their own home
- 31% were renting
- 1% tenure unknown

Aquatic Facilities

The Moreton Bay Region has 13 council pools and one 24-hour lagoon for the public. The majority of these pools are operated by Belgravia Leisure. The majority of the pools are Olympic size pools (50 metres) and are heated during the winter months. Opening hours, lifeguard operating times and pool fees can be found on the Moreton Bay council website.

Shire of Noosa

Shire of Noosa is a coastal region home to Noosa Heads 130km north of Brisbane City. 35% percent of Shire of Noosa consists of national parks, reserves or conservation areas. The original inhabitants of Shire of Noosa are the Kabi Kabi/Gubbi Gubbi people.

Estimated 2021 population: 56,298⁵

- 15% were children aged 0 to 14 years
- 9% were aged 15 to 24 years
- 7% were aged 25 to 34 years
- 11% were aged 35 to 44 years
- 15% were aged 45 to 54 years
- 16% were aged 55 to 64 years
- 28% were aged 65 years and over
- 2% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- 29% were born overseas

Weekly household income

- 19% <\$650 per week
- 19% ≥ \$3000 per week
- Median household income \$1,467

Employment status

- 84% were employed (people aged 15+ years)
- 5% unemployed

Housing status

- 75% own their own home
- 21% were renting
- 2% tenure unknown

Aquatic Facilities

Shire of Noosa has three community pools. Contact details for further information on hours and fees are on the Shire of Noosa council website.

Redland City

Redland City borders Brisbane City to the west and north-west and Logan City to the south-west and south. It includes Redland Bay, North Stradbroke Island and the smaller islands between North Stradbroke and Victoria Point. Redland City has 12 mainland suburbs and 10 island suburbs. The original inhabitants of Redland City are the Quandamooka people.

Estimated 2021 population: 159,222⁵

- 18% were children aged 0 to 14 years
- 11% were aged 15 to 24 years
- 10% were aged 25 to 34 years
- 12% were aged 35 to 44 years
- 14% were aged 45 to 54 years
- 14% were aged 55 to 64 years
- 21% were aged 65 years and over
- 3% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- 27% were born overseas

Weekly household income

- 17% <\$650 per week
- 24% ≥ \$3000 per week
- Median household income \$1,767

Employment status

- 87% were employed (people aged 15+ years)
- 4% unemployed

Housing status

- 74% own their own home
- 23% were renting
- 1% tenure unknown

Aquatic Facilities

Redland City has two aquatic centres. One is located on Russell Island (Bay Islands Aquatic Centre) and the other on the mainland (Cleveland Aquatic Centre). The Bay Islands Aquatic Centre is a saltwater chlorinated pool and is managed by the council on behalf of Education Queensland. The Cleveland Aquatic Centre is managed by Belgravia Leisure and has two outdoor pools, an outdoor playground pool and one indoor pool. Redland City also has seven swimming enclosures (enclosed areas in the bay waters). One is on the mainland, four are on the Bay Island and two are on North Stradbroke Island. Opening hours and pool fees can be found on the Redland City council website.

Scenic Rim Region

The Scenic Rim Region is a rural Local Government Area, just under 100km from Brisbane, and borders Logan City, City of Ipswich, Lockyer Valley Region, and City of Gold Coast. The Scenic Rim Region also includes the Great Driving Range. This region is surrounded by World Heritage-listed national parks and has three dams (Lake Moorgerah, Lake Maroon and Lake Wyaralong). The original inhabitants of the Scenic Rim Region are the Mununjali, Wangerriburra and Ugarapul peoples.

Estimated 2021 population: 42,984⁵

- 18% were children aged 0 to 14 years
- 10% were aged 15 to 24 years
- 9% were aged 25 to 34 years
- 12% were aged 35 to 44 years
- 14% were aged 45 to 54 years
- 15% were aged 55 to 64 years
- 23% were aged 65 years and over
- 4% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- 22% were born overseas

Weekly household income

- 19% <\$650 per week
- 16% ≥ \$3000 per week
- Median household income \$1,410

Employment status

- 85% were employed (people aged 15+ years)
- 4% unemployed

Housing status

- 75% own their own home
- 21% were renting
- 2% tenure unknown

Aquatic Facilities

The Scenic Rim Region has five swimming pools. Three swimming pool facilities are owned by the council (Beaudesert, Tamborine Mountain and Canungra) and are operated by contracted third-party providers. The swimming pools in Boonah and Rathdowney are owned by Education Queensland and operated by local schools. One swimming facility (Scenic Rim Region Aqua Fitness Centre) is operated by community volunteers. Pool opening hours and pool fees are located on the Scenic Rim Region Council website.

Somerset Region

Somerset Region is located almost 100km north-west of Brisbane City. The Brisbane River flows through the region and there are two major dams (Wivenhoe and Somerset). Somerset Region is known for its lakes and the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail, which is a recreational track for cycling, hiking and horse-riding. The original inhabitants of Somerset Region are the Jagera, Yuppera, Ugarapul, Jinibara and Kabi Kabi peoples.

Estimated 2021 population: 25,057⁵

- 18% were children aged 0 to 14 years
- 10% were aged 15 to 24 years
- 10% were aged 25 to 34 years
- 12% were aged 35 to 44 years
- 14% were aged 45 to 54 years
- 15% were aged 55 to 64 years
- 22% were aged 65 years and over
- 5% identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
- 21% were born overseas

Weekly household income

- 20% <\$650 per week
- 13% ≥ \$3000 per week
- Median household income \$1,312

Employment status

- 85% were employed (people aged 15+ years)
- 5% unemployed

Housing status

- 75% own their own home
- 21% were renting
- 2% tenure unknown

Aquatic Facilities

Somerset Region has three swimming pool facilities, which are all outdoor pools. Two swimming facilities are operated by Just Sports n Fitness (Lowood swimming pool & The Kilroy Aquatic Centre). The third swimming facility (Toogoolawah swimming pool) is operated by Somerset Health and Fitness and is only open between September to April. Seasonal hours and pool fees are located on the Somerset Council website.

Sunshine Coast Region

The Sunshine Coast is a popular travel destination 103km north of Brisbane. Sunshine Coast Region's coastline runs 211km and is known for its beaches and parks. The original inhabitants of Sunshine Coast Region are the Kabi Kabi and Jinibara peoples.

Estimated 2021 population: 342,541⁵

- 17% were children aged 0 to 14 years
- 11% were aged 15 to 24 years
- 11% were aged 25 to 34 years
- 12% were aged 35 to 44 years
- 13% were aged 45 to 54 years
- 13% were aged 55 to 64 years
- 22% were aged 65 years and over
- 2% identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
- 26% were born overseas

Weekly household income

- 17% <\$650 per week
- 20% ≥ \$3000 per week
- Median household income \$1,595

Employment status

- 86% were employed (people aged 15+ years)
- 4% unemployed

Housing status

- 68% own their own home
- 27% were renting
- 1% tenure unknown

Aquatic Facilities

Sunshine Coast Region has 10 aquatic centres and four community pools. Community pools are operated by local community groups rather than councils. Most aquatic centres are managed by SwimFit. Pool hours and fees can be found on the Sunshine Coast Council website.

Toowoomba Region

Toowoomba Region is an inland Local Government Area that borders Lockyer Valley, Western Downs, Goodiwindi and Southern Downs. Located 125km west of Brisbane, it is home to the Condamine River and Toowoomba city. The original inhabitants of the Toowoomba Region are the Jagera, Giabal and Jarowair peoples.

Estimated 2021 population: 173,204⁵

- 20% were children aged 0 to 14 years
- 13% were aged 15 to 24 years
- 13% were aged 25 to 34 years
- 12% were aged 35 to 44 years
- 12% were aged 45 to 54 years
- 12% were aged 55 to 64 years
- 19% were aged 65 years and over
- 5% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- 19% were born overseas

Weekly household income

- 19% <\$650 per week
- 16% ≥ \$3000 per week
- Median household income \$1,461

Employment status

- 89% were employed (people aged 15+ years)
- 5% unemployed

Housing status

- 65% own their own home
- 32% were renting
- 1% tenure unknown

Aquatic Facilities

The Toowoomba Region has nine swimming pools. Information on pool fees, locations and operational hours can be found on the Toowoomba Regional website.

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