

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Place-Based Partnerships



Multicultural
Community Water
Safety Program

A national, evidence-informed initiative to reduce drowning risk, remove barriers to swimming and water safety education, and build belonging for refugees, recently arrived migrants and broader multicultural communities.

Funded by the Australian Government and led by Royal Life Saving Society - Australia.

WHY PARTNER WITH US

- Multicultural communities face elevated drowning risk from layered barriers. These include lower swimming and water safety skills, unfamiliarity with local hazards, and financial, language, cultural and access barriers to participation.
- Partnerships shift systems at scale, coordinating delivery across multi-LGA or regional corridors, generating co-investment, and building local capability that outlasts the funding period.
- Aligned to the Australian Water Safety Strategy 2030, the Commonwealth Multicultural Access and Equity Policy, and the Multicultural Framework Review: Towards Fairness, and to Royal Life Saving's strategic approach to eliminating drowning, empowering WE SWIM communities strengthening safety, and succeeding together.

WHAT'S ON OFFER

- **Grant range:**
up to \$100,000 (excl. GST) per partnership
- **Funds available:**
approximately \$1,500,000 (excl. GST)
- **Application type:** open grant
- **Focus:** A diverse LGA or regional corridors and hubs with concentrated overseas-born populations and elevated drowning risk

WHO SHOULD APPLY

A **lead organisation** applying on **behalf of a consortium** that includes:

- At least two **multicultural, settlement or community partner organisations**
- At least one **council or council representative**
- At least one water safety organisation and/or **aquatic provider** - a pool, aquatic facility, swim school or similar

The lead applicant must be an incorporated not-for-profit or incorporated body with the governance and financial capability to manage a partnership at this scale.

WE SWIM PILLARS

Every funded activity activates one or more of:

- **WE CONNECT** — build links between multicultural communities and local aquatic facilities, swim schools, clubs and councils
- **WE WELCOME** — improve cultural safety, create welcoming aquatic environments, expand workforce and leadership pathways
- **WE PROMOTE** — deliver targeted, multilingual water safety messages through trusted voices
- **WE LEARN** — remove barriers to swimming and water safety education, and build skills to agreed benchmarks

HOW FUNDING IS USED

- No more than **20%** to coordination
- A strong **in-water component** required within the delivery allocation
- **Co-investment expected** — matched or higher cash and in-kind contributions from consortium partners

GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT

- Each partnership establishes a **Local Community Coalition (Steering Group)**, meeting at least monthly, to guide co-design, monitor delivery and plan for sustainability
- Full participation in Royal Life Saving's monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) framework is a condition of funding

GET IN TOUCH

Talk to us before you apply. Early conversations help test program fit, confirm geography, and clarify co-design and co-investment expectations.

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