

# OVERARCHING PROGRAM LOGIC

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.



Multicultural  
Community Water  
Safety Program

## THE LOGIC FOR CHANGE

If Royal Life Saving provides national coordination and tiered community partnerships that co-design culturally responsive activity across four pillars - WE CONNECT, WE WELCOME, WE PROMOTE and WE LEARN,

Then multicultural communities will gain safer access to aquatic environments, stronger swimming and water safety capability, more trusted information and experience more welcoming venues.

Over time, this will reduce drowning risk, remove barriers and build belonging for refugees, recently arrived migrants and broader multicultural communities.

## THE PROBLEM

Multicultural communities experience higher drowning risk because of complex and layered vulnerabilities. These include lower swimming and water safety skills, limited familiarity with local hazards, and financial, language, cultural and access barriers.

These are most pronounced for refugees and recently arrived migrants during settlement and the decade after arrival and can persist across generations if unaddressed.

Families can also feel unsafe, unwelcome or disconnected from local pools and beaches, aquatic recreation and employment opportunities, thereby weakening both safety and social cohesion.

## ACTIVITY ACROSS THE FOUR PILLARS



### WE CONNECT

Builds links between communities and aquatic places and services, including referral pathways, co-design and partnership formation with councils, water safety organisations, aquatic providers and settlement partners.



### WE WELCOME

Improves cultural safety, welcome and workforce pathways at aquatic venues, including cultural responsiveness work with venues and staff, and gender-sensitive session design.



### WE PROMOTE

Shares targeted multilingual safety messages through trusted channels, including trusted-voice communication and campaigns aligned to seasonal and local hazards.



### WE LEARN

Removes barriers to lessons and builds practical swimming and water safety capability, including subsidised lessons, pool familiarisation, family swim days and access supports.

## HOW THE THREE PARTNERSHIP TIERS WORK TOGETHER

### Place-based Partnerships

Shift systems at corridor, hub or regional scale through large multi-partner coalitions, shared governance and stronger co-investment.

### Community Programs

Address specific local barriers, cohorts or community pathways through practical, targeted partnerships in a single place or catchment.

### Pathfinder Programs

Test new models, settings and pathways so Royal Life Saving and partners can learn quickly, adapt confidently and scale what works.

## OUTCOME PATHWAY

### → SHORT TERM

- Better reach into multicultural communities;
- Stronger hazard awareness;
- Increased confidence to attend aquatic venues;
- Lower first-entry barriers;
- Stronger trust with community, providers and councils.

### → MEDIUM TERM

- Improved swimming and water safety capability;
- More welcoming, culturally responsive venues;
- Stronger local partnerships;
- Greater continuity of participation;
- Clearer pathways into leadership and employment.

### → LONG TERM

- Reduced drowning risk for multicultural communities;
- Stronger social cohesion and belonging around water;
- Sustainable local capability and partnership models;
- Stronger evidence-informed policy nationally.

## KEY ASSUMPTIONS

Community-led, co-designed activity is more trusted, relevant and effective than one-size-fits-all delivery

Participation rises when cost, transport, language, cultural and confidence barriers are reduced

Strong local partnerships can shift systems and create positive change, much more than isolated activities

Co-investment distributes ownership, creates efficiencies and extends reach



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