

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Community Programs



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, social and systemic barriers to participation, especially during and after settlement.
- Programs deliver focused, local change, addressing a specific barrier, cohort or community, building trust, and creating pathways into sustained participation.
- 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 communities strengthening safety, and succeeding together.

WHAT'S ON OFFER

- **Grant range:**
up to \$50,000 (excl. GST) per partnership
- **Funds available:**
approximately \$1,200,000 (excl. GST)
- **Application type:** open grant
- **Focus:** a single LGA, a defined local community or tightly focused local catchment

WHO SHOULD APPLY

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

- At least one **community-based organisation** serving multicultural, refugee-background or settlement communities
- 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** is required however **dry-side and in-water activity** are both eligible, provided the connection to participation, access or trust-building is clear
- Co-investment expected — cash and/or in-kind (non-cash) contributions, such as venue access, staff time, transport or communications support

GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT

- A formal steering group is **not required**, but strong local partnership arrangements are expected, with clear roles and community input into delivery
- Full participation in Royal Life Saving's monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) framework is a condition of funding, proportionate to project scale

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.

weswim@rlssa.org.au

www.royallifesaving.com.au/weswim