ROYAL LIFE SAVING
NSW | ACT | TAS

Annual Report

2024–25





OUR VISION

More Australians
enjoying the water safely.



Welcome

As we reflect on the past year, Royal Life Saving remains steadfast in its purpose — to prevent drowning and promote safe participation in aquatic environments across all communities.

Our role as a trusted leader in water safety continues to evolve. We operate in an increasingly complex landscape shaped by social, economic, environmental, and demographic change. Through it all, our commitment to creating safer, healthier, and more inclusive communities remains unchanged.

We have focused our efforts on expanding our reach, strengthening our impact, and ensuring our services are accessible, relevant, and responsive to the needs of our diverse population. Whether it's shaping policy, developing new partnerships, or delivering essential programs, our work is built on collaboration, evidence, and a deep understanding of the communities we serve.

At the heart of our success is a network of passionate individuals, dedicated partners, and committed supporters who share in our mission. Together, we continue to build awareness, deliver life-saving education, and support sustainable, community-led solutions to reduce the risk of drowning.

As we look to the future, we do so with clarity, ambition, and optimism. Royal Life Saving is well-positioned to lead the way — embracing innovation, fostering equity, and creating lasting impact for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to making a meaningful difference.

For all of time, Australia's rivers, creeks and lakes have been essential…for life.

And for more than 130 years, Royal Life Saving has been educating and inspiring Australians to enjoy the water…for their entire lives. We've helped millions of Australians learn to swim. We've taught the swim teachers, trained the lifeguards and championed CPR. We've led essential research and safety assessments, and we continue to deliver innovative programs, products and services to ensure those we love…are happy, healthy and safe. Royal Life Saving is behind every splash, stroke, kick and paddle, behind every breath of life…to ensure we all enjoy a water way of life.

Watch the video ▸





Honouring Our Legacy, Embracing the Future

A Legacy Built on Purpose

Royal Life Saving was founded with a singular vision — to protect life through water safety. Over the decades, this vision has guided us through a journey marked by public service, community empowerment, and unwavering commitment. From humble beginnings to a state-wide presence, our story is one of dedication, driven by volunteers, professionals, and community leaders working in unity. Generations have come to rely on our expertise, not only for skill development but also for leadership in creating safer aquatic environments. This trust has become the foundation of our identity.

Navigating a Changing Environment

We are operating in an era defined by rapid social shifts, climate variability, cost-of-living pressures, and growing demand for inclusive services. These factors present both complexity and opportunity. The rising diversity of our communities, increased engagement with natural waterways, and widening disparities in access to aquatic education require us to think differently and act decisively. While we face constraints in resourcing and infrastructure, we are propelled by a deep responsibility to respond with solutions that are equitable, evidence-based, and culturally relevant.

A Vision for What's Next

Our future rests on our ability to lead with clarity, engage with purpose, and deliver with impact. We are investing in smarter systems, adaptive service models, and a highly skilled workforce that reflects the diversity of the communities we serve. By deepening our partnerships, embracing innovation, and staying grounded in our mission, we are positioning ourselves for meaningful and lasting change. We know that a safe aquatic future will not happen by chance — it will be the result of deliberate strategy, shared responsibility, and unwavering commitment to protecting lives in, on, and around the water.

As we move forward, we carry with us the lessons of our past and the courage to shape what comes next.





Contents

ACHIEVING TOGETHER

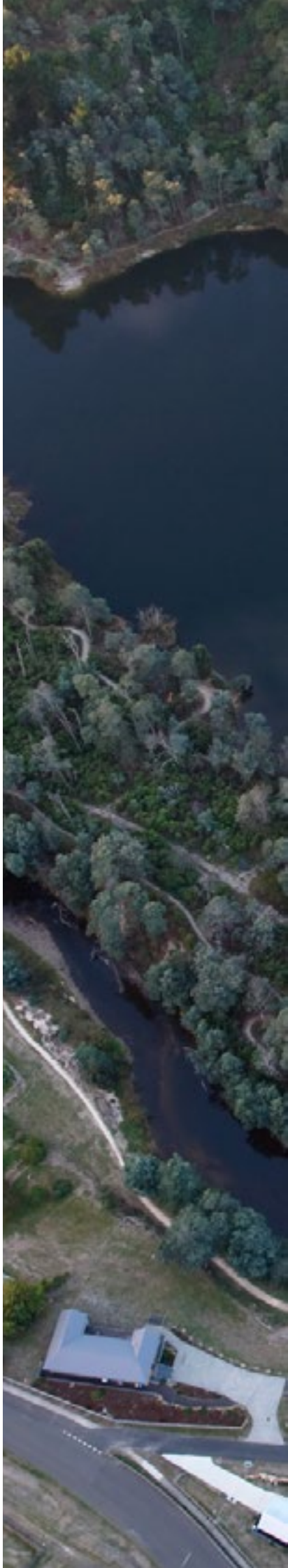
Message from the Governor (NSW)	12
Message from the Minister (NSW)	13
Message from the President	14
Message from the Chief Executive Officer	15
Our Organisation	16
Highlights	22
The Summer Drowning Toll 2024–25	34
The National Drowning Report 2024–25	36

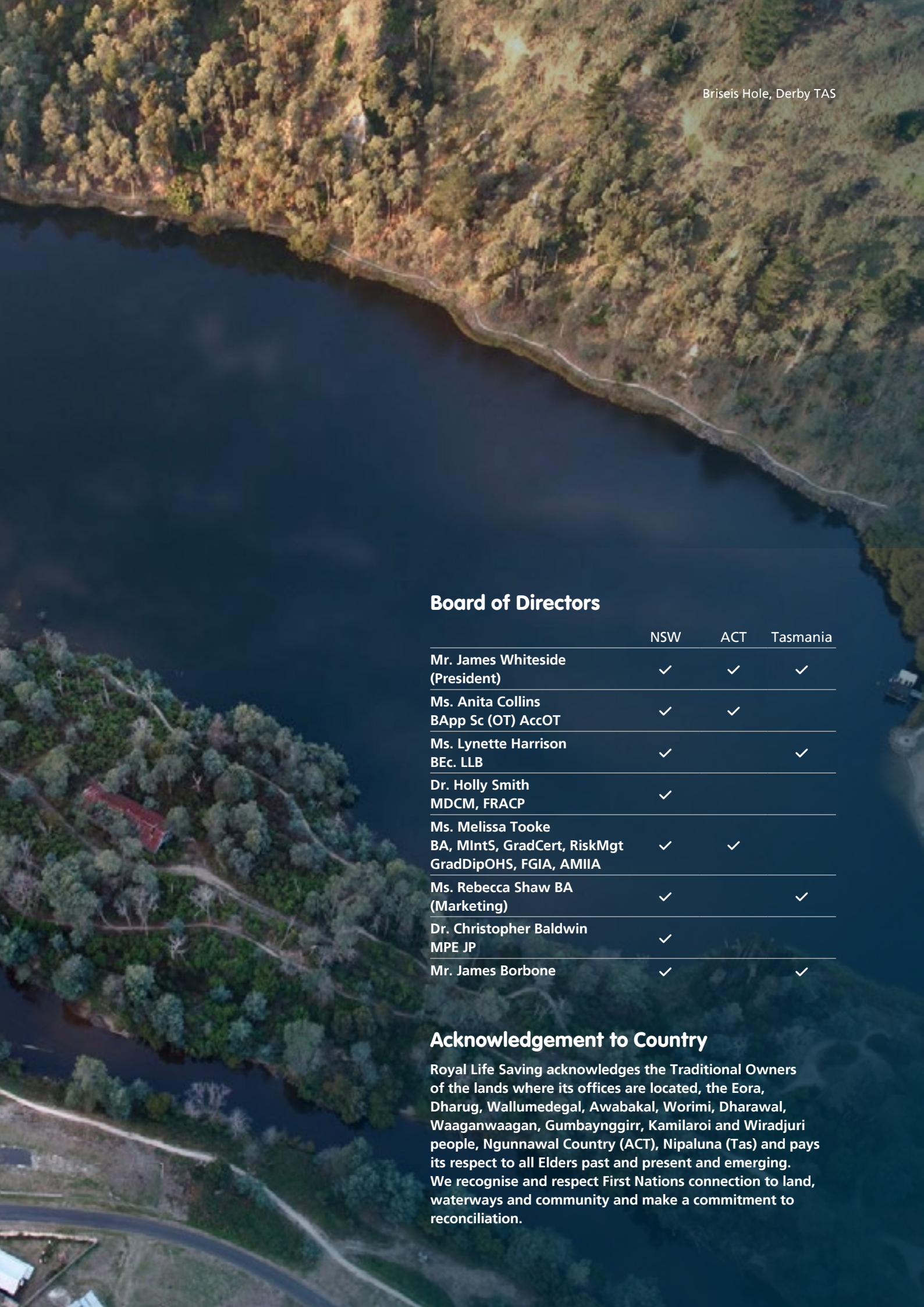
OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Leadership and Collaboration	44
Participation Growth	56
Safe Environments	74
Skilled Community	82
Sustainable Future	90

OUR CELEBRATIONS

Celebrating Our Members, Partners, and Shared Legacy	104
Honours	112
Awards – Point Score	122





Briseis Hole, Derby TAS

Board of Directors

	NSW	ACT	Tasmania
Mr. James Whiteside (President)	✓	✓	✓
Ms. Anita Collins BApp Sc (OT) AccOT	✓	✓	
Ms. Lynette Harrison BEc. LLB	✓		✓
Dr. Holly Smith MDCM, FRACP	✓		
Ms. Melissa Tooke BA, MIntS, GradCert, RiskMgt GradDipOHS, FGIA, AMIIA	✓	✓	
Ms. Rebecca Shaw BA (Marketing)	✓		✓
Dr. Christopher Baldwin MPE JP	✓		
Mr. James Borbone	✓		✓

Acknowledgement to Country

Royal Life Saving acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands where its offices are located, the Eora, Dharug, Wallumedegal, Awabakal, Worimi, Dharawal, Waaganwaagan, Gumbaynggirr, Kamilaroi and Wiradjuri people, Ngunnawal Country (ACT), Nipaluna (Tas) and pays its respect to all Elders past and present and emerging. We recognise and respect First Nations connection to land, waterways and community and make a commitment to reconciliation.





ACHIEVING TOGETHER

01

Message from the Governor (NSW)



Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC

Governor of New South Wales

As Patron of Royal Life Saving New South Wales, I am again pleased to commend Royal Life Saving's vital role in protecting lives across our State.

Throughout the year, Royal Life Saving NSW has continued its proud tradition of empowering individuals to participate in aquatic environments safely while strengthening the social fabric of our State.

Royal Life Saving has engaged individuals in lifesaving programs from every corner of New South Wales, ensuring that communities are supported by a capable and skilled workforce. A particular achievement has been the awarding of over 200,000 vocational and community qualifications, many in regional and rural communities where local expertise is essential to community safety. This investment in training reflects not only a commitment to building skills and improving safety but also to the Society's benevolent purpose—to extend opportunity, support, and protection and to foster confidence and capability across diverse communities.

This year, tragically, 129 lives were lost to fatal drowning in New South Wales, representing an increase of 30% on the ten-year average. Behind each number is a family and community grieving an irreplaceable loss. The evidence shows that males accounted for 85% of drownings, with risk-taking behaviours often contributing to these tragedies. Inland waterways remain the most dangerous locations, accounting for 35% of deaths, while beaches made up a further 19%.

The data also reveals that of those who drowned, 27% were from our most disadvantaged communities, and 27% were born overseas, underscoring the importance of culturally tailored and accessible water safety programs. The challenge of protecting older adults is also clear, with people aged 75 and over representing 16% of all drownings. These figures highlight the need for targeted campaigns that address medical risk factors and supervision during aquatic recreation.

Our aquatic environments are among our State's greatest natural assets, offering health, social, and recreational benefits. Ensuring that all people—regardless of age, background, or circumstance—can enjoy them safely is a responsibility Royal Life Saving continues to uphold. Royal Life Saving NSW has shown great leadership in advocating for safer waterways, supporting vulnerable groups, and addressing the complex impacts of both fatal and non-fatal drowning.

I extend my deepest thanks to the Board, staff, volunteers and supporters of Royal Life Saving NSW. Through your tireless efforts you have saved lives and fostered the safety and wellbeing of communities across our State.

Message from the Minister (NSW)



The Hon. Stephen Kamper, MP

Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism,
Minister for Sport, Minister for Jobs and Tourism

Every summer, New South Wales comes alive with the sound of laughter around pools, the splash of children learning to swim, and families enjoying our spectacular rivers, lakes, and coastlines. Our connection to water is woven into the very fabric of our lifestyle.

Yet for all the joy our aquatic environments bring, they also demand responsibility — from government, community, and industry alike. Far too often, that joy is replaced with grief. In the past year, too many families across NSW have experienced the heartbreak of a drowning tragedy.

That's why the work of Royal Life Saving NSW is more critical than ever.

As Minister for Sport, I want to acknowledge the extraordinary leadership, innovation, and impact Royal Life Saving NSW brings to communities right across our state. From remote inland waterways to the suburbs of Western Sydney, your programs are saving lives and giving people the skills, knowledge, and confidence to stay safe in, on, and around the water.

This past year has highlighted the importance of investing in prevention. Your partnerships with councils, schools, health providers, and community organisations are reaching those most at risk — young children, culturally diverse families, and regional communities. I am especially encouraged by the efforts to break down barriers to participation and ensure every child, regardless of background or postcode, has the opportunity to learn to swim.

The NSW Government shares your commitment to building a safer and more inclusive aquatic culture. We are proud to support initiatives that educate, empower, and protect — and we recognise that achieving a zero-drowning future will require continued collaboration, innovation, and focus.

To the entire Royal Life Saving NSW team — your staff, volunteers, trainers, and supporters — thank you for your dedication. Your passion and professionalism have created safer communities, stronger partnerships, and a powerful legacy.

I look forward to working with you in the year ahead to build on this momentum and make NSW a national leader in water safety for generations to come.

Message from the President



Jim Whiteside

President

This past year marked a historic milestone — 130 Summers of Saving Lives — a powerful reminder of Royal Life Saving's enduring commitment to water safety, community resilience, and lifesaving education.

We proudly launched our 130-year celebrations at NSW Parliament House, with the support of The Hon. Chris Minns MP, Premier of New South Wales, Sam Fricker, Olympian and social influencer, and members of the Parliamentary Friends of Royal Life Saving, chaired by Mr Roy Butler MP. This celebration was followed by a public exhibition in Parliament's foyer, showcasing our achievements, legacy, and impact across generations.

As an organisation serving communities across New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, and Tasmania, we extend our sincere appreciation to all three governments for their strong support and collaboration. In particular:

- The NSW Government, including the Office of Sport, for continued investment in infrastructure, safety, and participation.
- The ACT Government, including the Education Directorate, for championing water safety in public education through programs.
- The Tasmanian Government, whose support — including through the Department of State Growth — has helped advance strategic initiatives ensuring a safer future for all Tasmanians.

We were honoured to be hosted at NSW Government House by Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales and Patron of Royal Life Saving. The Commendation Ceremony was a moving tribute to courageous individuals whose actions saved lives and inspired communities.

The AQUAS Gala Awards Night, attended by over 250 guests, was a celebration of dedication, innovation, and community impact across the sector. From volunteers and trainers to emergency responders and aquatic managers, these award recipients exemplify the lifesaving mission we proudly uphold.

Our sincere thanks go to the staff, members, partners, and volunteers whose efforts each day bring our mission to life. Your work empowers communities, particularly in regional and remote areas, and strengthens the culture of safety we aim to embed.

We also acknowledge the National Office of the Royal Life Saving Society – Australia, whose leadership in policy, research, and advocacy helps ensure our programs remain data-driven and aligned with national priorities.

To the Boards of NSW, ACT, and Tasmania, and to our executive leadership teams, thank you for your outstanding stewardship, clear direction, and strong governance. Our success is a direct reflection of your commitment and resolve.

Looking ahead, we are excited to roll out a range of new initiatives, with a key focus on supporting children's aquatic development and safety. Whether through swimming programs, school partnerships, or community activations, we are determined to remove barriers and create opportunities for every child to thrive safely in, on, and around water.

As we look beyond 130 summers, our purpose remains as clear and urgent as ever — to save lives, build safer communities, and ensure every person, everywhere, has access to essential water safety education.

Thank you for your continued support.

Message from the Chief Executive Officer



Michael Ilinsky

Chief Executive Officer

It is with great pride that I present the 2024–25 Annual Report for Royal Life Saving — encompassing the combined efforts, achievements, and aspirations of our teams across New South Wales, the ACT, and Tasmania.

This year has been a powerful reminder of what is possible when purpose, partnership, and passion align. Across three jurisdictions, our people and programs have made a profound impact — supporting communities, expanding access to essential education, and setting new benchmarks for water safety and inclusion.

We've seen substantial growth across all areas of our operations — from program participation and training delivery to advocacy and engagement with key stakeholders. These successes have not happened by chance. They are the result of clear strategy, dedicated teams, and the enduring trust placed in us by governments, community leaders, and families who count on our expertise to keep their loved ones safe.

Our strength lies in our ability to adapt and respond. Whether addressing the needs of a multicultural suburb in Western Sydney, a coastal town in Tasmania, or a school in the heart of Canberra — we continue to deliver programs that are locally relevant, culturally responsive, and grounded in evidence. Through this approach, we've been able to meet diverse needs while maintaining a unified vision of safety, inclusion, and wellbeing.

Importantly, we have continued to invest in our people. Across all offices, we are fortunate to have an extraordinary team of professionals, facilitators, and volunteers who bring our mission to life each day. Their energy, integrity, and compassion remain the driving force behind everything we do.

As we look to the future, we do so with clarity and confidence. We understand the challenges ahead — whether it's the impact of rising living costs, access barriers, or the growing need to address regional inequities. But we also see opportunity: to innovate, to collaborate, and to lead. Our efforts to strengthen community resilience, increase participation, and reduce drowning risk are far from complete — but they are stronger than ever.

To our stakeholders, partners, and supporters — thank you. Your trust, advocacy, and shared belief in our vision have enabled us to grow our reach and deepen our impact. Together, we are building a safer and more inclusive aquatic culture for all Australians.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge our President, Mr Jim Whiteside, and the Board of Directors across NSW, ACT, and Tasmania. Your leadership, vision, and unwavering commitment to our mission have been instrumental in guiding this organisation through another year of growth, resilience, and purpose-driven success.

With momentum on our side and a steadfast commitment to progress, I am excited about what lies ahead.

Our Organisation

Royal Life Saving – A Lifelong Commitment to Water Safety

Water has always been at the heart of Australian life — from inland rivers to coastal lagoons, from backyard pools to community centres. These spaces shape our way of living, provide moments of joy and connection, and reflect our deep cultural and environmental heritage. For over a century, Royal Life Saving has stood as a trusted presence alongside these waters, committed to keeping every moment safe, inclusive, and enriching.

Our organisation exists for a simple, powerful purpose: to prevent drowning and promote safe aquatic participation for all Australians. Across New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, and Tasmania, our people deliver critical programs and services that equip individuals, families, and communities with life-saving skills and knowledge.

We teach children to swim. We train adults to respond in emergencies. We empower professionals — lifeguards, swim instructors, and community educators — to create safer aquatic environments. And we work tirelessly to reach those who need us most: regional towns, multicultural communities, First Nations people, and those facing social or economic disadvantage.

Our work is not limited to pools or classrooms. We lead research, influence policy, and conduct risk assessments that shape the way water is accessed, used, and understood across the country. Our role is both preventative and proactive — supporting individuals to stay safe while advocating for broader systems and solutions that save lives.

Every interaction we have, every lesson we deliver, every community we support is underpinned by our unwavering belief that water safety is a shared responsibility. It's a skill, a right, and a legacy we are proud to uphold.

As we look to the future, Royal Life Saving remains dedicated to progress. We are expanding our reach, deepening our partnerships, and embracing innovation to ensure that the joy of water remains a safe experience for generations to come.

We are more than an organisation — we are a movement, built on trust, driven by purpose, and united by the vision of a safer aquatic nation.

Living Our Values

Royal Life Saving's values are more than guiding principles — they are the foundation of its culture, conduct, and community service. These values inform every decision, action, and interaction across the organisation. Key commitments include:

- Authenticity and Transparency: Upholding trust through honest, ethical, and open communication.
- Accountability: Maintaining the highest standards of professionalism and ethical conduct.
- Respect and Inclusion: Treating every individual with dignity and fairness, ensuring services are accessible and equitable for all.
- Confidentiality and Safety: Protecting stakeholder privacy while delivering services in secure, reliable environments.
- Continuous Improvement: Exceeding expectations through robust compliance, rigorous training standards, and effective risk management.

These values shape every program, partnership, and community impact — reinforcing Royal Life Saving's role as a trusted, values-driven leader in water safety.

Shaping Our Strategic Direction

Royal Life Saving's strategic direction is a forward-thinking blueprint built on evidence, community insight, and sector intelligence. It reflects a strong commitment to evolving needs, impact-led delivery, and organisational growth. Key focus areas include:

- Mission-Aligned Action: Every initiative aims to prevent drowning and promote safe aquatic participation.
- Inclusive Expansion: Increasing access to programs, particularly for underserved and diverse communities.
- Capacity Building: Strengthening training pathways, workforce development, and sector partnerships.
- Innovation and Digital Transformation: Embracing technology to broaden service accessibility and effectiveness.
- Agility and Accountability: Maintaining a living strategy that adapts with insight, measures success, and delivers meaningful outcomes.

Together, the organisation's values and strategy ensure that Royal Life Saving remains resilient, relevant, and ready to lead a safer aquatic future — where every person has the opportunity to thrive in and around water.

Organisational Strategy and Impact

Strong Governance

Royal Life Saving upholds governance as a foundational principle, ensuring ethical leadership, transparency, and accountability across all operations. Governance is not viewed as a compliance task but as a strategic enabler that underpins trust, performance, and innovation. A skilled and diverse Board of Directors steers the organisation, ensuring alignment with its mission, constitution, and regulatory obligations. Governance provides structure and confidence to manage risk, measure success, and safeguard public trust in the organisation's life-saving work.

Stability and Sustainability

The organisation is committed to long-term sustainability, underpinned by operational consistency, resilience, and sound planning. Despite growing complexity in the external environment, Royal Life Saving has maintained steady delivery of services, adaptive program design, and scalable solutions. Sustainability is woven into resource planning, environmental responsibility, and community partnerships to ensure impact lasts well into the future. This dual focus on stability and foresight ensures the organisation remains a capable, relevant leader in water safety.

Our People

Staff, contractors, and volunteers are the heart of Royal Life Saving. Their dedication, professionalism, and passion are essential to delivering high-quality services across diverse regions. The organisation supports its people with opportunities for development, wellbeing, flexibility, and leadership. A strong internal culture values diversity, collaboration, and accountability, helping teams thrive and reinforcing the organisation's overall resilience.

Our Customers

Customers are seen as central partners in the mission to prevent drowning and promote water safety. Every interaction — from training courses to incident support — reflects a commitment to empathy, consistency, and professionalism. Royal Life Saving prioritises feedback and responsiveness, ensuring its services evolve with the changing needs of individuals, families, and community groups. This customer-first approach reinforces trust and advances the organisation's mission through each meaningful engagement.

Business and Organisational Integrity

Integrity is the hallmark of how Royal Life Saving operates — embedded in decision-making, communications, and financial stewardship. Open reporting, ethical conduct, and responsible use of resources are essential to maintaining stakeholder confidence. The organisation consistently communicates its impact and ensures alignment with its values, making integrity a non-negotiable standard across all operations and relationships.

Challenges Facing Our Communities

Communities across Australia face mounting challenges, including:

- Rising cost of living, reducing access to swimming lessons and safety equipment.
- Environmental volatility, altering river conditions and increasing the risk of aquatic incidents.
- Economic pressures, impacting program delivery and workforce retention.
- Growing demand for aquatic recreation, often without corresponding proficiency in water safety.

These realities demand agile, inclusive responses tailored to the needs of vulnerable, regional, and disadvantaged populations. Royal Life Saving is committed to innovation and evidence-based solutions that meet communities where they are.

Risk Overview

Royal Life Saving's risk management framework is vital to its operational and strategic success. The organisation addresses risk through four pillars:

- Risk Strategy: Utilises a group risk architecture and defined appetite across strategic, financial, operational, and reputational domains, monitored through key risk indicators (KRIs).
- Risk Governance: Applies the 'Three Lines' model, where risks are managed across frontline teams, leadership, and Board oversight.
- Risk Process: A continuous cycle of risk identification, mitigation, monitoring, and communication.
- Risk Intelligence: Data-driven insights guide responses to emerging trends, incidents, and demographic changes.

Current risks include inflation-related financial pressures, workforce shortages, and reputational threats. Emerging risks include sector fragmentation and rising expectations of public accountability.

A Collaborative Future

Royal Life Saving envisions a future driven by strategic partnerships, digital transformation, and inclusive community impact. The organisation is building deeper alliances with governments, industry, and land managers to ensure water safety becomes a national, whole-of-community priority. Future goals include:

- Empowered, at-risk communities confident in water.
- A supported, proud, and skilled workforce.
- Strong government and partner investment in aquatic safety.
- A unified aquatic sector with aligned goals.
- Enhanced social impact reporting and evidence-based delivery.

Technology and social impact measurement will further elevate service quality, transparency, and outcomes. By shaping rather than reacting to the future, Royal Life Saving will remain a trusted force for aquatic safety, equity, and leadership.



Yarrangobilly Caves Thermal Pool, Snowy Mountains NSW

Celebrating 130 Summers of Saving Lives

In 2024–2025, Royal Life Saving NSW proudly celebrated **130 Summers** — a powerful tribute to our 130-year legacy of saving lives, promoting water safety, and supporting communities across New South Wales. Since our founding in 1894, Royal Life Saving has remained at the forefront of drowning prevention and aquatic safety, shaping generations of lifesavers and advocates for safer aquatic environments.

To honour this extraordinary milestone, a series of major events and community celebrations were held, reflecting on our rich history while inspiring a renewed commitment to our mission.





Key highlights of the 130 Summers celebrations included:

Official 130-Year Launch at NSW Parliament House

The anniversary was officially launched at NSW Parliament House, hosted by The Hon. Chris Minns MP, Premier of New South Wales. The event was attended by key dignitaries, government stakeholders, industry leaders, and special guests, including Olympian and social media influencer Sam Fricker.

The celebration was also supported by members of our Parliamentary Friends of Royal Life Saving, with Chair Mr Roy Butler MP, Member for Barwon, offering his strong endorsement of our legacy and future direction.

Top: The Hon. Chris Minns, MP – NSW Premier, launching 130-year celebrations

Lower: The Premier, Sam Fricker and NSW President, Jim Whiteside cutting the official 130 year cake







Top: The AQUAS – celebrating 130 Summers

Left: Royal Life Saving Board Members and Employees celebrating at the AQUAS with Mr Roy Butler MP – Member for Barwon and Chair of Parliamentary Friends of Aquatics and Recreation



Far left: 130 Summer Summers – NSW Parliament display

Left: Winner of the President's Award at the AQUAS – Wes Manuta, Award Sponsor – aXcelerate, Scott Vanderheyden and Nick Cox (Winner – Belgravia) and Royal Life Saving NSW President Jim Whiteside. Recognised for their outstanding contribution to safety, inclusion, and industry leadership.

Parliamentary Exhibition "130 Summers"

A special display was installed within the NSW Parliament, showcasing historical images, archival documents, and program highlights that have shaped our story across 130 summers. The exhibition celebrated our evolution from early lifesaving drills to modern community resilience efforts, capturing the breadth of our impact on public safety in NSW.

The AQUAS Awards

As a centrepiece of the 130 Summers campaign, the AQUAS Awards recognised excellence, innovation, and leadership in water safety, education, and community service. Held at a prestigious venue, the awards night was attended by over 250 guests, including Mr Roy Butler MP, Chair of the Parliamentary Friends group.

The evening honoured individuals, clubs, councils, educators, and volunteers for their outstanding contributions to drowning prevention and aquatic safety. The ceremony reflected the depth of commitment across our sector and celebrated the people who bring our mission to life every day.

130 Summers was not just a celebration of time — it was a celebration of purpose. As we look to the future, Royal Life Saving NSW remains steadfast in its mission to prevent drowning and support every community to enjoy the water safely.

130 Summers. One mission. Every life.

2024 – 25 Highlights

Achievements Across New South Wales, the ACT and Tasmania

In 2024–25, Royal Life Saving continued to lead the way in advancing water safety, aquatic education, and community engagement across New South Wales, the ACT, and Tasmania. The following achievements reflect the breadth and impact of our programs, partnerships, and people.

National Impact and Reach

Vocational Accreditations Issued: 75,000+ across all jurisdictions, including:

- Pool Lifeguards Accredited: 7,460
- New Swim Teachers Trained: 1,300+
- CPR & First Aid Accreditations: 62,275
- 46% (31,932) of vocational accreditations were from regional NSW.

Program Delivery and Community Engagement

- Participants Engaged: Over 200,000 people engaged in Royal Life Saving programs or services
- 31,001 participated in a practical lifesaving program.
- SwimVac Partnerships: 49 regional and remote swimming pool partners teaching 2,217 children to learn to swim program across 2 weeks.

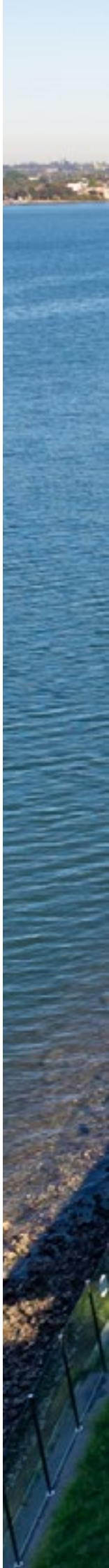
Risk Management and Aquatic Facility Safety

Industry Professional Development: more than 15,000 individuals participated in a professional development program to enhance their leadership skills and career progression.

Delivery Profile and Success

- 8,681 individual participants in a vocational program were born overseas
- 3% were students living with a disability
- 1.8% were ATSI
- Satisfaction surveys were sent to more than 60,000 individuals, returning a satisfaction rate of 95%.

This collective success across Australia showcases our unwavering commitment to safer waterways, stronger communities, and a highly capable aquatic workforce. Through the strength of our people, partnerships, and programs, Royal Life Saving continues to lead the nation in drowning prevention and lifesaving education.





Drummoyne Swimming Centre, Sydney NSW

Regions and Academies

Our Regions: Serving Local Communities with Purpose

Royal Life Saving NSW's regional offices are the foundation of our community engagement, providing frontline leadership in delivering water safety education, lifesaving training, and community programs across the state. These teams are not only service providers — they are community connectors, educators, and advocates deeply embedded within the regions they serve.

The diverse geography of New South Wales brings with it a wide range of aquatic risks and participation challenges. Our regional teams, with their local knowledge and trusted community relationships, are uniquely positioned to tailor programs to local needs — ensuring our services are both relevant and impactful, whether delivered in a coastal hub or a remote inland town.

Regional offices play a pivotal role in extending our reach, strengthening our partnerships, and promoting our vision: that every individual, regardless of postcode, should have access to the skills and knowledge required to enjoy the water safely.

Our regional success is enabled by close collaboration with our Sydney-based units, fostering a unified and consistent standard of service delivery across the state. This partnership ensures that regional offices have the tools, resources, and financial stability required to operate sustainably and deliver with excellence.

We acknowledge the exceptional commitment of our regional staff and volunteers. Their work is not only helping save lives — it is building a culture of safety, resilience, and active participation in every corner of New South Wales.

Our Regional Future: Expanding Life-Saving Access

As part of our ongoing commitment to reduce drowning rates and increase water safety in high-risk areas, Royal Life Saving NSW is seeking government and community support to establish permanent regional offices in Wagga Wagga, Orange, and Tamworth.

These locations are critical. Inland waterways consistently record high numbers of fatal and non-fatal drowning incidents. The establishment of fully resourced Royal Life Saving offices in these regions will provide a permanent base from which we can deliver education, training, and engagement programs that address these risks head-on.

A local office is more than bricks and mortar — it is a pledge of presence, a source of consistent expertise, and a hub for prevention. These regional offices will ensure timely access to life-saving resources and a strong, visible commitment to the safety and wellbeing of local communities.

Through this investment, we aim to significantly reduce water-related tragedies, foster a new generation of water-safe citizens, and ensure that all communities, no matter how remote, are equipped to navigate aquatic environments safely.



REGIONAL SHOWCASE

Hunter

Supporting Seniors in and Around Water

Adults aged 55 to 75+ account for 37% of all drowning deaths, with falls into water being the leading cause in this age group. Recognising this growing concern, the Hunter Region Office successfully delivered multiple Connecting Seniors and Senior Water Wellness programs across Kurri Kurri, Valentine, Tomaree, Toronto, and Lakeside. These programs supported older adults with education on water safety while offering opportunities to improve mobility, strength, and wellbeing through aqua fitness. Participants engaged in water safety awareness, CPR and AED training, safe entry/exit techniques, and practical water-based exercise — fostering confidence and community connectedness.

Department of Education Training

For many years, the Hunter Office has played a critical role in training NSW Department of Education teachers, with annual CPR and Anaphylaxis sessions forming a core part of the region's calendar. In 2025, a new initiative saw four consecutive Staff Development Days introduced at the beginning of Term 1. In response, the Hunter team delivered a record-breaking effort, training more than 3,000 local teachers across four days. This ensured educators were prepared for the school year and equipped with lifesaving skills to keep their students safe.



Education Partnerships

In partnership with the NSW Department of Education, the Hunter team delivered accredited vocational training to over 100 high school students through the Educational Pathways Program. Courses included Pool Lifeguard, Provide First Aid, and Provide First Aid in an Education and Care Setting. Students undertaking the Pool Lifeguard course also completed practical work placements with Lake Macquarie Council Pools, giving them essential real-world experience and employment readiness.

Preparedness in Practice

Lifeguard preparedness remained a key priority, with the Hunter Region Office delivering scenario-based in-service training at aquatic centres throughout the region. These tailored sessions addressed realistic emergencies — including spinal injuries on water slides and seizures in the pool — and emphasised communication, teamwork, and rapid response under pressure. The initiative strengthened lifeguard capacity across facilities and reinforced industry best practice.

Learn to Swim for Disadvantaged Children

The Hunter team upheld its commitment to inclusion by delivering Learn to Swim and Water Safety programs to children from disadvantaged backgrounds and culturally and linguistically diverse communities. With generous support from Clubs NSW – East Cessnock Bowling Club and the Wests Group, programs were delivered in the Cessnock region and to refugee students from Newcastle High School. For many participants, these lessons were their first formal exposure to aquatic education, providing vital skills in swimming, survival, and water awareness.

Together, these efforts reflect the Hunter Region's unwavering commitment to safety, equity, and excellence in aquatic education and community engagement.

REGIONAL SHOWCASE

Illawarra

Shellharbour Learn to Swim – Building Skills, Confidence, and Equity

The Shellharbour Learn to Swim program has continued to be a vital initiative in the Illawarra community, providing essential swimming and water safety education to children who may otherwise miss out. With a strong focus on supporting disadvantaged families, the program ensures that every child — regardless of background or circumstance — has the opportunity to develop life-saving skills in a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment.

This year, 10 children aged 2 to 8 years received 20 free swimming lessons at Shellharbour Swim Academy. Many of these young participants were introduced to structured swim lessons for the first time, marking a significant step forward in their aquatic education. The program not only improves swimming proficiency and water safety awareness, but also builds confidence, social connection, and a sense of belonging among children from vulnerable communities.

The success of the program is underpinned by strong partnerships between Royal Life Saving NSW, Shellharbour Swim Academy, ClubGrants, and local organisations such as Illawarra Multicultural Services. Together, these partners have worked to remove barriers, address equity gaps, and ensure that swimming lessons are accessible and inclusive for all.

Feedback from families and community stakeholders has been overwhelmingly positive, with many parents expressing heartfelt appreciation for a program that offers their children critical skills — not just for water safety, but for life.

As we look ahead, the Illawarra Office remains committed to expanding the reach of the Shellharbour Learn to Swim program, strengthening local partnerships, and continuing to champion initiatives that place the needs of our most vulnerable front and centre.







REGIONAL SHOWCASE

Riverina



The 2024–2025 period has once again been a dynamic and productive year for our Riverina team, marked by the delivery of high-impact training programs and strengthened community partnerships. Across the region, we facilitated a broad range of accredited courses, including Pool Lifeguard, Swim Teacher, First Aid, CPR, and Anaphylaxis training. We were especially pleased to welcome several large schools into our client network, helping them meet mandatory NSW Department of Education staff training requirements.

Our focus on community engagement and skill-building has remained steadfast. The continued demand for essential training in lifesaving and emergency response reflects the trust local organisations and educators place in our services and reinforces our role in strengthening aquatic safety across the Riverina.

This year also marked a significant transition in leadership. We farewelled our long-serving Regional Manager, Michael Dasey, who officially retired at the end of 2024. Michael's exceptional dedication over more than two decades has shaped the identity and impact of our regional operations. His leadership leaves a lasting legacy, and we extend our deepest gratitude for his unwavering commitment to drowning prevention and community education.

A standout initiative this year was the return of the **Outback Lifesaver Program** to Wagga Wagga for its fifth consecutive year. In partnership with Wagga Wagga City Council and the Oasis Regional Aquatic Centre, the program provided critical water safety and lifesaving education to the local community, with an ongoing emphasis on the risks posed by inland waterways. Its sustained success continues to highlight the importance of regional collaboration.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to delivering quality programs that equip individuals and communities with the skills, confidence, and knowledge needed to stay safe around water. With the support of our trainers, partner facilities, and stakeholders, the Riverina Region is well-positioned for another successful year of community impact and lifesaving education.



Wagga Wagga Outback Lifesaver Program

REGIONAL SHOWCASE

Western



In 2024–2025, Royal Life Saving's Western Regional Office remained a trusted and essential partner in strengthening aquatic safety and community resilience across Western NSW. From delivering vital training to offering risk management support and safety guidance, our team worked alongside councils, aquatic facilities, and local organisations to build capacity and ensure communities are equipped to enjoy water safely. Our commitment to on-the-ground collaboration has been key to driving positive, practical outcomes across the region.

A particularly meaningful achievement this year was the successful reactivation of the Walgett Swimming Pool. Facing the prospect of a hot summer without access to a local aquatic facility—following its prior decommissioning—the Walgett Shire Council secured a last-minute grant to bring the pool back into operation. Royal Life Saving Western Region was proud to step in and assist, collaborating with Council and a dedicated community working group to train new lifeguards, upskill local residents in first aid, and supply essential safety and rescue equipment.

The reopening of the Walgett pool exemplifies the broader value of aquatic centres in regional and remote communities. These spaces are not just infrastructure—they are critical hubs for social connection, physical activity, water safety education, and community wellbeing. Supporting their sustainability is central to our mission.

This year, our programs continued to expand across core areas including Bronze Medallion, Swim and Survive, Pool Lifeguard, and First Aid training. We remain committed to ensuring that all communities, regardless of location, have equitable access to these life-saving skills.

Our success would not be possible without strong regional partnerships. We extend our sincere thanks to Dubbo First Aid and Lifeguard Training, and in particular Lance and Tracy, whose ongoing collaboration and expertise have been instrumental in delivering high-quality training services throughout Western NSW.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the upcoming season and the growing opportunities to partner with councils, schools, and community groups. Together, we will continue to strengthen aquatic safety, capability, and participation across our vast and vibrant region.

REGIONAL SHOWCASE

Northern



The Northern Regional Office of Royal Life Saving continues to play a vital role in strengthening the safety and resilience of young people across Northern NSW. In 2024–25, our office maintained a strong presence in regional and remote communities, with a particular focus on delivering CPR and First Aid training to senior high school students from all education sectors.

From the inland town of Inverell, nestled along the Macintyre River near the Queensland border, to coastal communities such as Lennox Head and Camden Haven, our dedicated network of Trainers has travelled extensively to ensure that no school or student is left behind. The geographical diversity of the region presents unique challenges—and our Trainers have continued to meet them with professionalism, adaptability, and care.

This training is more than just a qualification. For students in regional communities—many of whom live on farms or remote properties with limited access to emergency services—knowing how to respond to a critical incident can make the difference between life and death. With many young people also obtaining their driver's or boating licence, or working with livestock and farm machinery, our First Aid training scenarios are tailored to reflect real-world risks relevant to their lifestyles.

Delivered through engaging and practical workshops, students develop confidence, skills, and situational awareness that will serve them not only at home, but throughout life. Those who successfully complete the training receive a nationally recognised Provide First Aid qualification, enhancing their employability and community contribution.

The success of this program would not be possible without the tireless efforts of our regional Trainer network. These professionals are more than educators—they are role models who instil confidence and capability in the next generation. Their commitment to quality delivery, cultural relevance, and student engagement has been instrumental in the positive outcomes we continue to see across the region.

We are proud to support regional youth and help build a culture of preparedness and responsibility that extends well beyond the classroom. As we look ahead, the Northern Regional Office remains committed to expanding our reach, strengthening school partnerships, and ensuring every young person in our region has the skills to respond when it matters most.



Royal Life Saving Aquatic Industry Development Manager Jason Phillips with Trainers Michael Davies and John O'Brien

Our Academies – Seven Hills and Denistone East

Centres of Excellence in Aquatic Safety and Community Engagement

Royal Life Saving's Aquatic Safety Training Academies at Seven Hills and Denistone East are foundational to our mission — delivering high-quality, inclusive education that empowers individuals and communities to participate safely in aquatic environments.

Purpose-built and community-focused, our academies are more than training centres. They are vibrant community hubs, equipping thousands of people — from infants and school students to older adults and industry professionals — with essential skills in swimming, water safety, lifesaving, and first aid. These programs form the backbone of our commitment to reducing drowning and enhancing community resilience.

Our academies also serve the broader aquatic industry, offering structured training for lifeguards, swim teachers, and aquatic technical operators, while supporting leadership development and professional pathways. They reinforce Royal Life Saving's role as a leader in building and sustaining a skilled, capable, and future-ready workforce.

This success has been made possible by our dedicated staff, whose passion, energy, and connection with local communities have transformed these facilities into trusted centres of safety and learning. Their efforts have created spaces where knowledge is shared, confidence is built, and lifelong water skills are nurtured.

Strategic Growth and Asset Stewardship

As we look to the future, the ongoing growth and evolution of our academies will be guided by a robust asset management strategy that maximises value, ensures long-term functionality, and supports increased community access. This includes investment in infrastructure upgrades, program innovation, and the strategic development of new sites to meet rising demand.

Our vision is clear: to expand our footprint while maintaining the high standards of service delivery our communities rely on — especially in areas where access to water safety education remains limited.

Partnership with Purpose

None of this would be possible without the support of our valued partners. In particular, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Seven Hills RSL Club for their unwavering commitment to our Seven Hills Academy and the wider Western Sydney community. Their ongoing investment in our programs has enabled thousands of individuals to access life-saving education and has played a critical role in strengthening local community safety and resilience.

To the Management, Board, and Members of **Seven Hills RSL Club** — we are deeply grateful. Your support is a powerful reminder of what can be achieved through partnership, shared purpose, and a deep commitment to community wellbeing.



Denistone East Academy interior

Programs and Services

The Seven Hills and Denistone East Academies offer a wide range of accessible programs, including:

- Learn to Swim and Survive programs (6 months to adult)
- Swimming training and fitness squads
- CPR and First Aid courses and recertification
- Pool Lifeguard training and aquatic career pathways
- Swim Teacher accreditation and development
- Disability inclusion initiatives through our partnership with Rainbow Club Australia

These services are delivered in state-of-the-art facilities, supported by trained professionals and underpinned by Royal Life Saving's national frameworks and commitment to excellence.

For more information on our academies and the programs we offer, please visit our website.

Together, with the support of our partners and community, our Academies remain a vital force in creating safer waterways and stronger, more confident communities.



Seven Hills Academy



Denistone East Academy

SHOWCASE

Inclusion in Action – Building Pathways for All

At Royal Life Saving's Aquatic Academy in Seven Hills, we are committed to creating a welcoming, inclusive, and empowering environment where every member of the community can thrive — both in and out of the water.

At the start of 2024, we identified a significant gap in opportunity for people with disability across the aquatic sector, particularly between Learn to Swim programs and competitive pathways. For many, this gap meant leaving the sport altogether — a sport that for many provides vital health, wellbeing, and social connection.

In response, we developed a whole-of-centre approach to access and inclusion. While our Learn to Swim program continues to be adapted to support children with additional needs and our Competitive Squad Program now includes a number of athletes with disability, we recognised employment as the next critical step in creating equitable opportunity.

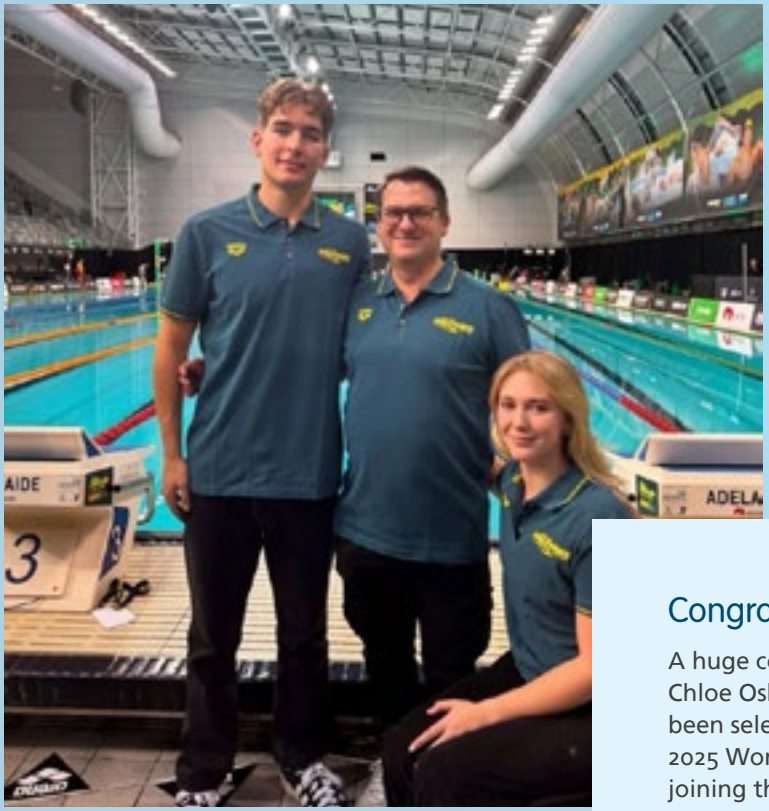
This inspired the launch of our **Sunflower Team** — a proudly inclusive team of employees with hidden and visible disabilities who now contribute meaningfully to the daily operations of the centre. The internationally recognised sunflower symbol identifies individuals with non-visible disabilities who may need extra support, and now serves as a beacon for inclusive practices at our facility.

Our Sunflower Team now includes five incredible staff members:

- Lewis, who sustained a traumatic brain injury in 2020, is a vibrant part of our pool deck operations — handing out stickers, assisting families, restocking supplies, and sharing his signature humour with staff and children alike.
- Patrick, who has autism, began with us in a support capacity and now plays an active role in maintenance and pool testing. His dedication and growth have made him a valued team member.
- Vanessa, an S14 athlete, joined us in late 2024 with the dream of becoming a swim instructor. After completing her training, she is now gaining in-water experience and progressing toward independent instruction.
- Krystal, also an S14 athlete, was inspired by Vanessa's journey. After completing her swim teacher training, she is now undertaking her practical hours with focus and enthusiasm.
- Maxwell, a high school student with autism and ADHD, assists with weekend maintenance duties, including pressure cleaning and site upkeep. His reliability and teamwork have been outstanding.

These five team members represent the incredible potential that exists when opportunities are equitable. They are some of our most hardworking, dedicated, and joyful employees — arriving each day with pride and purpose.

Looking ahead, we aim to expand the Sunflower Team to include more participants and replicate the model at our Denistone East location. We are proud of what this program has achieved, and even more excited about what lies ahead — as we continue to break down barriers, promote inclusion, and build a truly representative aquatic workforce.

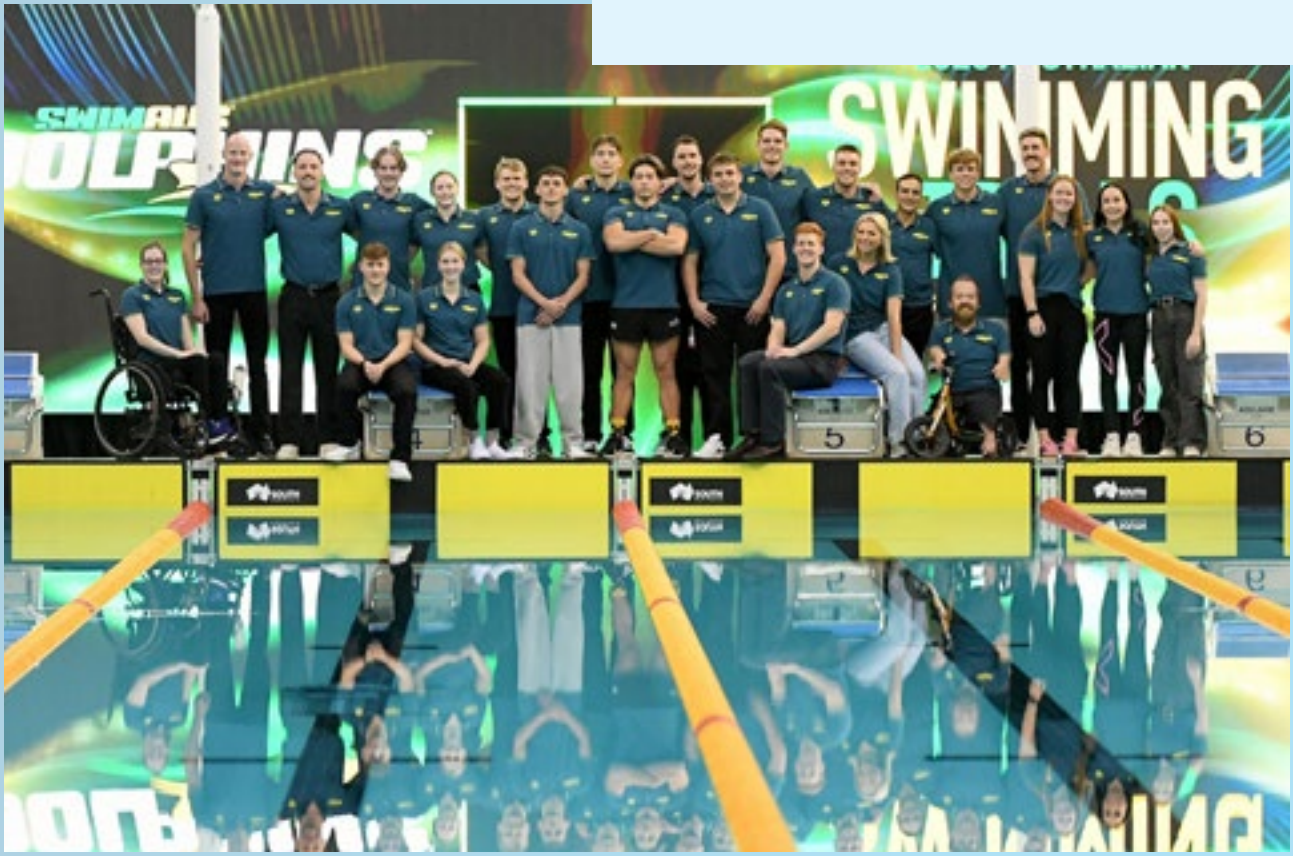




Academy staff at the AQUAS

Congratulations

A huge congratulations to RLSNSW swimmers Chloe Osborn and Alexander Tuckfield, who have been selected in the Para Dolphins Team for the 2025 World Championships in Singapore. Also joining them is RLSNSW Coach Gavin Stewart. An amazing achievement.



The Summer Drowning Toll 2024–25

A Season Marked by Tragedy and Urgency

Royal Life Saving research continues to show a consistent and concerning peak in drowning fatalities during the summer months. In an effort to better understand these seasonal risks, and inform national prevention efforts, we publish the Summer Drowning Toll each year, tracking drowning deaths between 1 December and 28 February.

This data provides critical insight and supports the delivery of targeted water safety messaging — especially for high-risk groups such as men, older adults, children, and multicultural communities.



Summary of Findings

- 104 people lost their lives to drowning this summer
- This represents a 5% increase from last summer and a 14% increase on the five-year average
- 81% of victims were male, continuing a long-term trend
- 10 children (0–14 years) drowned
- 32% of all deaths were adults aged 55 years and over

State and Territory Breakdown

- New South Wales: 33 deaths (highest nationally)
- Victoria: 22 deaths
- Queensland: 22 deaths
- Western Australia: 15 deaths
- Other states/territories: 12 combined

Location-Based Trends

- Beaches: 32% of all summer drowning deaths
- Rivers and creeks: 30% — a 29% increase from last summer
- Swimming pools: 11 deaths — double last summer's total
- Regional areas: 64% of all deaths occurred in non-metropolitan communities

Citation: Dahiya A, Koon W, Pidgeon S. (2025) Summer drowning report 2024/25: An investigation into drowning deaths in Australia between 1 December 2024 and 28 February 2025, Royal Life Saving Society – Australia. Sydney.

Context and Call to Action

Drowning in regional and rural areas continues to occur at a disproportionately higher rate. Greater exposure to unpatrolled, open water and limited access to swimming pools and formal education significantly increase risk.

Royal Life Saving is alarmed by yet another rise in fatalities this summer and reiterates the urgent need for sustained, long-term investment in:

- Year-round access to safe, supervised aquatic facilities
- Early and ongoing swimming and water safety education
- Culturally tailored safety messaging for at-risk groups
- Enhanced safety infrastructure and patrol services in regional locations

Our Commitment

Each drowning death is a tragedy that could have been prevented. As we reflect on the devastating toll of summer 2024–25, we remain more determined than ever to lead evidence-based, community-focused strategies that protect lives and promote a culture of safe aquatic participation.



The National Drowning Report 2024–25

Every year, Royal Life Saving produces a National Drowning Report. This report examines the factors that contribute to drowning deaths in Australia by examining who, where, when and how people have drowned in Australian waterways over the last year. Royal Life Saving has produced a National Drowning Report every year since 1995.

The National Drowning Report 2025, released on Tuesday 26th August at Parliament House, Canberra showed drowning is a persistent and traumatic issue that affects thousands of families, first responders and communities every year.

The National Drowning Report 2025, published by the Royal Life Saving Australia in partnership with Surf Life Saving Australia, found there were 357 drowning deaths over the past 12 months, which was 27% higher than the 10-year average .



The National Drowning Report 2025 insights include:

- 357 drowning deaths over the past 12 months, a 27% increase on the 10-year average.
- The lowest rates of drowning were in children 5-14 years, but this rises sharply by ages 15-24 years.
- Drowning rates were above the 10-year average for every age group over 45 years.
- One third (33%) of all drowning deaths were adults aged 65 and older (118).
- The highest drowning rates were in people aged 75 years and older.
- 43% occurred in coastal locations (154), including 82 drowning deaths (23%) at beaches.
- 34% at inland waterway locations (122), including 99 drowning deaths (28%) at rivers.
- 10% occurred in swimming pools (35 deaths), 68% of those deaths were in backyard pools.
- Where country of birth was known, 33% were born overseas, consistent with the 10-year average.
- Inequities persist – drowning rates double for those from the most disadvantages areas and nearly triple for regional and remote residents compared to major cities.

A full copy of the National Drowning Report 2024-25 can be found at www.royallifesaving.com.au


1
Drowning Deaths in 2024/25
2
10-Year Average
↓50%
0.21
2024/25
Fatal Drowning Rate per 100,000
0.46
10-Year Average Fatal Drowning Rate per 100,000
↓51%
Over the past 20-years:
83% were males
Highest number of drowning deaths occurred in the 0-4 year (15%) and 18-24 year (15%) age groups
43% occurred in rivers/creeks
35% of drowning deaths occurred while swimming and recreating
ACT 20 year rate
0.42
0.69
0.57
0.51
0.35
2004-2005
2005-2006
2006-2007
2007-2008
2008-2009
2009-2010
2010-2011
2011-2012
2012-2013
2013-2014
2014-2015
2015-2016
2016-2017
2017-2018
2018-2019
2019-2020
2020-2021
2021-2022
2022-2023
2023-2024
Number of drowning deaths
Baseline avg 04/09
Baseline avg 14/19
Annual crude rate per 100,000
Baseline avg 09/14
Baseline avg 19/24
20-year average
STUDY
terway Safety Assessment
Many of the waterways within the Murrumbidgee River Corridor have warning signs to let visitors know about the dangers of swimming or getting into the water. The report delivered by Royal Life Saving provided Parks ACT with a review of the reserve's signage mapped against the current best practice standards around water safety signage.
This project also delivered additional public rescue equipment along strategic locations from Cotter Basin and Kambah Pool, as highlighted within the ACT Drowning Prevention Plan.
This project was delivered with funding from the Australian Government.
mobile service

NEW SOUTH WALES

There were 129 drowning deaths that occurred in NSW between July 1st 2024 to June 30th 2025.

The drowning rate of 1.52 per 100,000 population increased by 22% this financial year, compared to the 10-year average.

The highest number of drowning deaths in NSW occurred among those aged 75+ years (16%) and reported the highest crude rate for all age groups (2.86 per 100,000).

People who lived in disadvantaged areas (IRSAD Decile 1-4) accounted for 27% of the total drowning deaths in NSW and people who lived in the most advantaged areas (IRSAD Decile 9-10) accounted for 25% of all drowning deaths.

Drowning deaths in NSW mainly occurred at rivers/creeks (35%), followed by beaches (19%), while swimming and recreating (22%).

129 Drowning Deaths in 2024/25

↑30% increase

99 10-Year Average

1.52 2024/25 Fatal Drowning Rate per 100,000

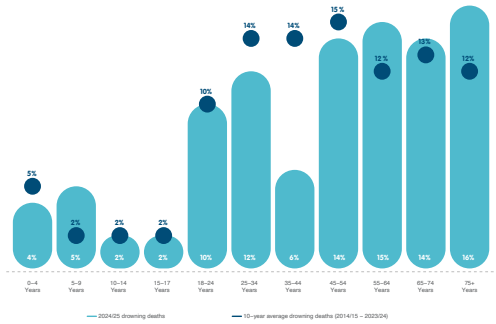
↑22% increase

1.25 10-Year Average Fatal Drowning Rate per 100,000

85% Male

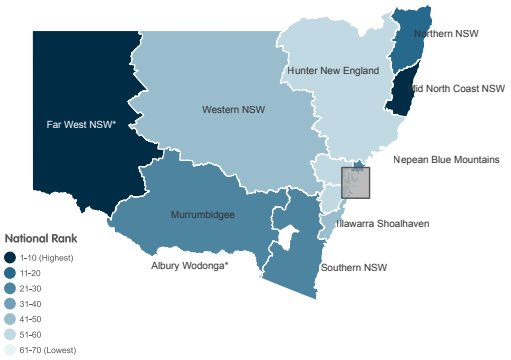
27% Born overseas

New South Wales drowning deaths by age group, 2024/25



Residential fatal drowning rate by NSW region, 2014/15 - 2024/25

This map shows the crude fatal drowning rates per 100,000 residents of each NSW region. As an indication of the relative burden of drowning in each community, these rates are based on where people lived, not where the incident occurred.

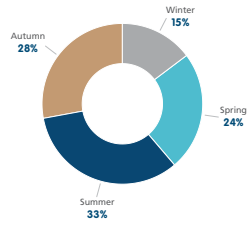


Region	Rate/100k	National Rank
Mid North Coast NSW	2.66	9
Far West NSW*	2.51	10
Northern NSW	2.3	14
Southern NSW	1.72	21
Murrumbidgee	1.68	22
Central Coast NSW	1.49	28
Western NSW	1.17	42
Illawarra Shoalhaven	1.16	43
Sydney	1.13	45
South Eastern Sydney	1.12	47
Hunter New England	1.04	51
Nepean Blue Mountains	1	53
South Western Sydney	0.94	54
Northern Sydney	0.89	57
Western Sydney	0.87	58
Albury Wodonga*	0.57	69

*Rates calculated from less than 10 cases, interpret with caution



New South Wales drowning deaths by season, 2024/25



New South Wales drowning deaths by activity, 2024/25

22% Swimming and recreating

10% Non-aquatic transport

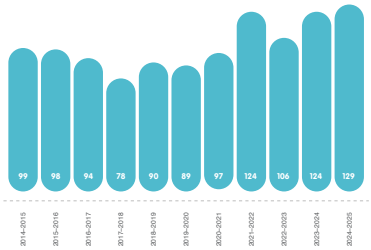
7% Rock fishing

7% Boating

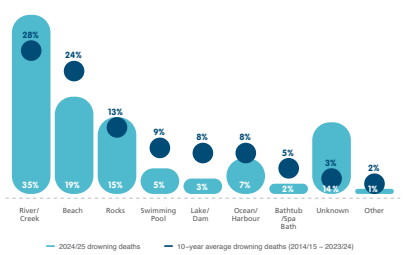
7% Unintentional fall into water

3% Diving/snorkelling

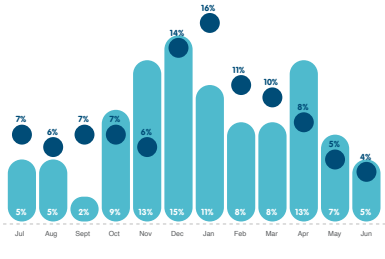
New South Wales drowning deaths by financial year, 2014/15 to 2024/25



New South Wales drowning deaths by location, 2024/25



New South Wales drowning deaths by month, 2024/25



Risk Factors

2% of cases drugs were recorded

3% of cases alcohol was recorded

Drive distance between residence and drowning location, 2024/25

Drowning Location	At home	<10km	11-50km	51-100km	>100km	Unknown	Offshore/ overseas
	7%	21%	9%	3%	13%	44%	3%


TASMANIA
8
88%
Male
38%
1.39
Hobart


Tasmanian drowning deaths by financial year, 2014/15 to 2024/25
Tasmanian drowning deaths by month, 2024/25
Drowning Location
12%
0%
12%
12%
12%
50%
Tasmania drowning deaths by season, 2024/25
Winter
Summer
Tasmanian drowning deaths by location, 2024/25
Hobart





A Shared Responsibility Requires Shared Investment

The rising toll of drowning across NSW, ACT, and Tasmania must not be accepted as inevitable. The economic cost of drowning is measured in the hundreds of millions, but the human cost is immeasurable.

Royal Life Saving continues to deliver on its mission with innovation, determination, and community focus. However, the scale of the challenge now requires **coordinated and courageous leadership from government**.

We invite all tiers of government to work with us in a renewed commitment to:

- **Zero preventable drownings,**
- **Equitable access to lifesaving skills,**
- **Stronger infrastructure, education, and public messaging.**

Together, we can create a future where every individual—regardless of age, background, or postcode—can enjoy our waterways safely and confidently.





OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

02



Leadership and Collaboration

Leading and coordinating an aquatic community

Strengthening our Position

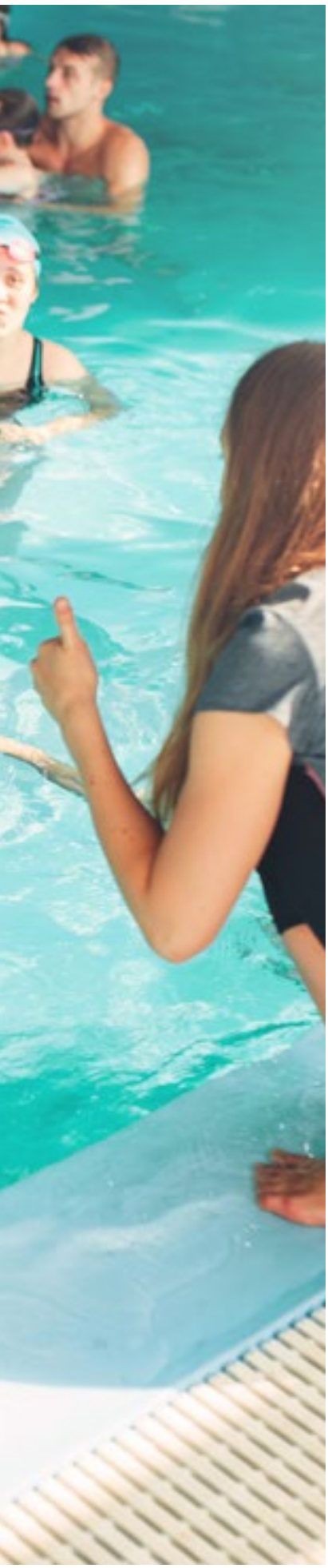
Our long history and investment in drowning prevention has ensured our status as a peak entity. Our leadership responsibilities position us to develop and support key sector policy, plans and agenda. Building sector and community intelligence via our actions ensures safer aquatic communities.

Our Goal

We will engage with government, community, corporates, and industry to ensure high quality outcomes and aquatic prosperity. We will lead and drive our collective agendas to ensure our communities have genuine access to aquatic solutions and services no matter where they reside or visit.

Actions

- Increase visibility of the organisations brand
- Strengthen and broaden our partnerships with purpose-driven organisations that support our vision and goals
- Solidify our position as the lead agency for the aquatic industry advocacy and engagement



Strengthening Our Voice in a Water-Connected Nation

As a highly trusted and respected organisation, Royal Life Saving is committed to implementing strategic initiatives that increase public awareness, articulate our purpose, and protect the integrity of our brand. Our reputation brings credibility to our messaging, and we actively partner with stakeholders to maximise exposure and foster broad acceptance of our mission.

Australia's deep connection to water—whether at local pools, rivers, lakes, beaches, or bays—is a defining part of our national identity. However, this familiarity often leads to complacency. Many people overestimate their aquatic ability, contributing to hundreds of drownings each year and countless near-misses. This growing gap between perceived competence and actual skill poses a serious risk.

Compounding this issue is the significant influx of migrants and refugees, many of whom arrive with limited exposure to Australia's aquatic environments or the behaviours necessary for safe engagement. At the same time, millions of swimming lessons have been missed due to the pandemic and increasing cost-of-living pressures. These gaps in aquatic education place entire communities at greater risk and may result in the emergence of a generation of non-swimmers.

In a country where water plays such a central role in daily life, swimming must be recognised as a vital life skill, not just a recreational activity. A lack of swimming proficiency diminishes participation, enjoyment, and—most critically—safety.



A Trusted Brand with a Public Responsibility

As custodians of water safety, Royal Life Saving recognises the responsibility we bear in leveraging our brand and reputation to ensure universal access to swimming and water safety education. Our mission is to safeguard lives and build safe, inclusive, and enjoyable aquatic environments for all.

By increasing the visibility of our brand and reinforcing our core message, we aim to reach broader audiences and elevate the urgency and importance of water safety. At the same time, we remain committed to protecting the integrity of our name—ensuring continued public trust and the effective delivery of our lifesaving programs and advocacy.

Leading with Purpose and Clarity

Our role in this space is both strategic and essential. It enables us to respond to emerging risks, address gaps in community capability, and remain a leading authority in water safety and drowning prevention.

Looking ahead, Royal Life Saving will continue to:

- Advocate for water safety education as a national priority
- Promote swimming as an essential life skill
- Collaborate with government, industry, and community partners to address complex risks
- Drive national conversations on equity in aquatic access and participation

Together, with a united commitment to prevention and education, we can make a lasting impact—reducing drownings, increasing awareness, and fostering a culture where every life around water is valued and protected.



SHOWCASE

130 Summers of Saving Lives: Increasing the Visibility of Our Brand and Profile

This year, Royal Life Saving NSW proudly amplified its public presence and reinforced its enduring community impact through a landmark initiative — the *Waterway of Life: 130 Summers of Royal Life Saving* exhibition at NSW Parliament House. This Showcase event formed a cornerstone of our efforts to elevate our brand visibility and profile among key government, industry, and community stakeholders.

Hosted in the Fountain Court of NSW Parliament during April 2025, the exhibition honoured 130 years of lifesaving service across New South Wales. It served as both a celebration of legacy and a powerful advocacy platform — telling the story of our people, programs, and impact through archival images, data, education displays, and cherished memorabilia.

The exhibition's official launch brought together the Hon. Chris Minns MP, Premier of NSW, Olympian Sam Fricker, Members of Parliament, and representatives from the aquatic, education, and emergency services sectors — reinforcing our relevance and reputation at the highest levels of public service.

This event was more than a reflection on history — it was a bold statement of our future direction. It reaffirmed our vision for a state where every person can enjoy the water safely, and reminded the public and decision-makers alike of the persistent risk of drowning, particularly in inland waterways and regional communities.

By increasing awareness of our work through this high-profile event, we have strengthened our identity as a trusted and expert voice in drowning prevention and water safety. Our sincere thanks to Mr. Roy Butler MP, Member for Barwon, for hosting the exhibition and recognising the irreplaceable role Royal Life Saving has played — and will continue to play — in the safety of our communities.



Strengthening and Broadening Partnerships to Fulfill Our Vision

In 2024–25, Royal Life Saving continued to prioritise strong, purpose-driven partnerships as central to our mission of preventing drowning and promoting safe aquatic participation. Our collaborations with government agencies, councils, aquatic centres, community organisations, and industry leaders enabled us to reach more people, deliver inclusive programs, and advocate for system-wide improvements in water safety education and access.

Throughout the year, our sector navigated ongoing challenges. Economic pressures, workforce shortages, and reduced service capacity persisted, particularly in regional and vulnerable communities. Many children and families—especially those from low socio-economic or culturally diverse backgrounds—remained disengaged from swimming and water safety programs. These trends pose serious long-term risks to community safety and wellbeing.

In response, we worked closely with partners to co-design practical, community-focused solutions. These included tailored engagement strategies, targeted workforce development initiatives, and scalable program delivery models. Our leadership in the sector continued to influence water safety policy and investment, reinforcing our position as a trusted and evidence-based advisor.

The success of these efforts demonstrates the critical importance of collaborative action. Through united efforts, we delivered high-impact programs, supported service continuity, and advanced our collective capacity to safeguard lives in, on, and around water.



SHOWCASE

Local Club Supporters

Strengthening Partnerships with Purpose

In 2024–25, Royal Life Saving NSW proudly deepened its relationships with purpose-driven organisations whose missions align with our own — to prevent drowning and promote safe aquatic participation for all. Central to these efforts was our partnership with the ClubGRANTS program and the unwavering support of local registered clubs across New South Wales.

Our showcase initiative, made possible by the generosity of more than 30 club partners, demonstrated the profound impact of collaboration. These clubs have not only invested in our programs — they've invested in people, in community resilience, and in the next generation of water-safe Australians.

Through their support, we delivered a diverse suite of high-impact programs reaching thousands across the state:

- CALD Adult Learn-to-Swim empowered adults from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds with vital water safety skills while fostering inclusion and social connection.
- Public Riverside Rescue Equipment Deployment enhanced safety infrastructure at key waterways, improving emergency response times and reducing risks for bystanders and rescuers alike.
- Junior Lifesaver Program equipped children with lifesaving skills, promoted water confidence, and nurtured active lifestyles within supportive peer environments.
- Pre-school Water Safety Project reached thousands of young children and their families, embedding water safety knowledge early and creating lasting community awareness.
- Kids at Risk Initiative provided disadvantaged youth with the opportunity to develop water safety, swimming, and personal skills that can change — and save — lives.
- Indigenous Youth Initiative built skills, created pathways to employment, and strengthened cultural connections in regional and remote areas.
- Youth at Risk Initiative delivered First Aid and CPR training to at-risk youth, improving their future employability while embedding vital community safety skills.

These programs extend far beyond the pool. They promote inclusion, improve health outcomes, build community connection, and instil a lifelong respect for water safety. Our partners have played an instrumental role in ensuring these opportunities are accessible to all, regardless of background, postcode or personal circumstance.

To each of our club partners — your investment is more than financial. It is a declaration of belief in our mission and a commitment to stronger, safer, more connected communities. Your support has created ripple effects across generations.

Together, we look forward to expanding these partnerships and continuing to deliver meaningful, measurable impact throughout New South Wales.

ClubGRANTS – supporting clubs that partnered with Royal Life Saving NSW during 2024–25:

Briars Sports Club
Burwood RSL
Cabramatta Rugby Leagues Club
Campsie RSL
Canada Bay Club
Canterbury Leagues
Castle Hill RSL
Chatswood RSL
City of Sydney RSL
Club Auburn
Club Bega
Club Five Dock RSL
Club Mudgee
Club Oatley
Club on East
Club Sapphire
Dooley's Lidcombe Catholic Club
Drummoyne Sailing Club
Earlwood Bardwell Park RSL Club
East Cessnock Bowling Club
Lithgow Workers
Magpies Waitara
Mekong Mounties Group
Merimbula RSL Club
Moama Bowling Club
Moama Echuca RSL
Moorebank Sports Club
North Ryde RSL
Oak Flats Bowling and Recreation Club
Parramatta Leagues Club
Rich River Golf Club
Ryde Eastwood Leagues
Seven Hills Toongabbie RSL
South Sydney Junior Rugby League Club
St John's Park Bowling
Wenty Leagues





SHOWCASE

Aqua Safe: Over 1,000 ACT Children Empowered with Water Safety Skills

The Aqua Safe Water Safety and Awareness Program is a cornerstone initiative that empowers Year 2 students in ACT public schools with the vital skills and knowledge to stay safe around water. Developed in partnership with the ACT Government's Education Directorate, and delivered by Royal Life Saving, the program offers a comprehensive and structured learning experience across two weeks—10 days of pool-based instruction combined with five classroom-based lessons.

Royal Life Saving facilitates the entire program, including student transportation, ensuring equitable access for all participating schools. In tandem with in-water learning, dedicated online resources assist teachers in delivering classroom content and assessing students' swimming proficiency.

Over the past 12 months, the program has supported more than 1,000 children from 21 ACT schools, fostering increased awareness, safety, and confidence in aquatic environments.

Participating schools include:

- Arawang
- Duffy
- Forrest
- Gilmore
- Hawker
- Isabella Plains
- Kaleen
- Kingsford Smith
- Macquarie
- Majura
- Maribrynong
- Mawson
- Mount Rogers
- Namadgi
- North Ainslie
- O'Connor Cooperative
- Sacred Heart
- Southern Cross
- Taylor
- Telopea Park
- Torrens

The Aqua Safe Program continues to be a vital part of Royal Life Saving's mission—to prevent drowning and promote safe aquatic participation—by building foundational water safety skills that will benefit children throughout their lives.



Implementing Initiatives Aligned to Core Agenda and Community-Supported Priorities

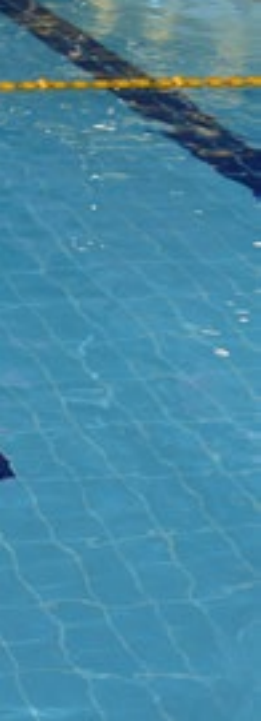
Implementing tailored, evidence-based initiatives that address community-identified water safety needs remains central to our mission at Royal Life Saving. Across 2024–25, we have continued to deliver campaigns, education programs, training services, and localised solutions that strengthen drowning prevention outcomes and promote lifelong aquatic safety.

Over the past year, many children and vulnerable groups have continued to face barriers to accessing traditional swimming and water safety education. Workforce shortages, financial pressures, and reduced service availability have disrupted program delivery in both urban and regional areas. These realities have reinforced the urgent need for scalable, inclusive solutions that target the communities most at risk.

In response, we prioritised initiatives that expand participation in swimming, survival, and water safety programs—particularly for those with limited aquatic experience or who are disconnected from mainstream services. We remain focused on equipping all Australians with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to safely enjoy the water, regardless of background or circumstance.

We also increased support to aquatic industry partners, community organisations, and education networks to deliver programs that reflect broader health, wellbeing, and inclusion goals. Our investment in partnerships ensures our reach is maximised, and our initiatives are both responsive and impactful.

These efforts reflect our strategic role in translating national water safety priorities into community-supported, locally relevant action. As challenges evolve, so too does our approach—ensuring we remain agile, effective, and community-driven.



SHOWCASE

Project Elevate: Solidifying Our Position as the Lead Agency in Aquatic Advocacy and Engagement

In 2024–25, Royal Life Saving NSW further cemented its leadership position within the aquatic industry by advocating for, and delivering, inclusive and targeted water safety solutions that directly address those most at risk of drowning.

Commencing in May 2025, Royal Life Saving NSW was appointed by the NSW Government as a lead delivery partner in the Learn to Swim for At-Risk Communities initiative—an unprecedented investment in community water safety. This program will see us provide over 100,000 free swimming and water safety lessons across New South Wales, reaching the people and places that need it most.

As a trusted provider with a proud 130-year legacy, we are uniquely positioned to deliver on this responsibility. Our extensive network, deep community connections, and culturally sensitive delivery models ensure that quality programs are brought directly to priority populations—including First Nations peoples, those from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, individuals in low socio-economic communities, and people living in regional and remote areas.

This initiative marks a turning point in how water safety education is accessed. Recent drowning data makes it clear: past approaches have failed to reach those most vulnerable. In response, this government-backed program is built around equity, access, and tailored education—values that Royal Life Saving NSW has long championed.

Our delivery spans four purpose-built programs:

	Program	Target Group	Focus
01	Program 1 **Regional Children**	Children aged 3–14 in disadvantaged regional & remote communities	Delivering core swimming and safety skills, with emphasis on First Nations and low-SEIFA populations
02	Program 2 **Primary School**	Year 2 students in public primary schools	Aligned with the National Swimming & Water Safety Framework
03	Program 3 **High School**	Year 7–8 students with limited prior aquatic education	Personal development, advanced safety skills, and peer-supported learning
04	Program 4 **Adult**	Adults from CALD communities	Culturally responsive education focusing on safety, inclusion, and confidence-building

By responding to the call to address gaps in access and swimming ability across NSW, Royal Life Saving NSW is not only delivering a high-impact program — we are actively shaping the direction of aquatic policy and engagement in NSW.

This initiative reinforces our role as the leading voice for water safety advocacy and reflects our proven ability to deliver meaningful outcomes that change lives. We applaud the NSW Government's commitment to equity in aquatic education and look forward to continuing this critical work in partnership with communities across the state.

Looking Ahead

In 2025–26, we will expand our delivery of targeted initiatives that address aquatic inequities, accelerate participation growth, and build long-term community resilience. By listening, adapting, and investing where it matters most, we will continue to lead in preventing drowning and supporting safer aquatic participation across the nation.





As a trusted provider with a proud 130-year legacy, we are uniquely positioned to deliver quality programs directly to priority populations.



Participation Growth

Promoting greater participation in safe aquatic pursuits

Supporting Active Communities

Our waterways provide significant health and well-being benefits. They enable opportunities to engage and recreate with family, friends and for personal solace. They also provide for active and sporting pursuits that enhance our lifestyles and livelihoods.

Our Goal

Inspire and support the growth of opportunities for all Australian to participate and engage with water. We will ensure that our actions consider everyone's life journey and ensure appropriate and accessible opportunities to build their capabilities and participate safely with a vision of 2 million people actively swimming and recreating each year.

Actions

- Champion inclusive aquatics with a particular focus on our diverse, regional & vulnerable communities
- Lift the communities swimming & lifesaving benchmarks
- Accelerate programs that focus on adult swimming skills and swimming in open waterways
- Drive participation in lifesaving programs resulting in a more prepared community



Supporting Our Diverse Communities to Reduce Drowning

Royal Life Saving is deeply committed to addressing the tragic reality that culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities continue to be overrepresented in Australia's annual drowning toll. Each life lost is a devastating reminder of the urgent need for inclusive, accessible, and culturally sensitive water safety programs.

To effectively tackle this challenge, we are reimagining and modifying traditional education and training approaches to meet the needs of our diverse communities. This includes adapting content, delivery methods, and language to ensure water safety messages resonate and are accessible to all.

Our commitment extends beyond awareness—it is about building trust, removing barriers, and providing genuine opportunities for individuals and families from all backgrounds to engage safely with aquatic environments. By doing so, we aim to empower communities, reduce risk, and ultimately save lives.

This is not a peripheral issue; it is a national priority. Our work is grounded in collaboration with community leaders, service providers, and local voices to ensure every intervention is informed, effective, and respectful. Together, we can close the equity gap in drowning prevention and create safer water experiences for all Australians.

SHOWCASE

Project Harmony: Empowering Children, Strengthening Communities Through Water Safety

In response to the disproportionately high rates of drowning among vulnerable communities, Royal Life Saving NSW, in partnership with the NSW Government, proudly launched Project Harmony — an initiative designed to break down barriers to water safety and deliver critical lifesaving skills to children most at risk.

With a $100,000 investment from the NSW Government and the collaboration of local councils, aquatic providers, and community leaders, Project Harmony provided 10 free swimming lessons to over 1,000 children aged three to six years across Western Sydney. These children, many of whom had never engaged with formal swimming education, received their first structured introduction to water safety in a culturally inclusive and supportive environment.

At the heart of Project Harmony is a commitment to accessibility, equity, and prevention. By integrating access through the First Lap voucher program, the initiative ensured that financial constraints did not prevent participation. Children from linguistically and culturally diverse backgrounds were prioritised, reflecting the clear need for early aquatic education in communities historically under-served.

The program was officially launched on 4 April 2024 at Whitlam Leisure Centre, Liverpool, and attended by key dignitaries including Charishma Kaliyanda MP, Joseph La Posta (CEO, Multicultural NSW), and numerous local government and community stakeholders. The event marked the beginning of a transformative journey for hundreds of children and families.

Why It Matters

Data shows that eight of the twelve local government areas in Australia with the highest drowning rates are located in Western Sydney. Project Harmony is a direct and proactive response to this reality, addressing long-standing gaps in water safety education before children even begin school.

Our Partners

We extend our deepest thanks to the councils and organisations whose leadership and generosity made this project possible:

- Belgravia Leisure
- Blacktown Council
- Camden Council
- Canterbury Bankstown Council
- Cumberland Council
- Georges River Council
- Liverpool Council
- The Hills Shire Council
- Parramatta Council
- YMCA, BlueFit Swimming

Championing Inclusive Aquatics with a Focus on Regional and Remote Communities

One-third of Australia's population lives in regional and remote communities outside major cities—areas that present unique challenges to water safety and drowning prevention. Sparse population density, limited access to lifesaving services, longer emergency response times, and reduced availability of swimming and water safety programs all contribute to heightened risk.

Extensive inland waterways and river systems, combined with lower socioeconomic indicators, create a complex risk environment. These communities often lack the infrastructure and support services available in urban areas, leading to an urgent need for targeted, inclusive approaches.

Children in regional and remote areas typically spend more time outdoors near water but experience lower developmental outcomes, reduced access to structured aquatic education, and fewer recreational program opportunities. Strategies designed for metropolitan populations often fail to meet the specific needs of these communities.

Key risk factors for regional and remote communities include:

- Geographical isolation
- Delayed emergency response times
- Increased exposure to natural water hazards
- Socioeconomic disadvantage
- Proximity to water bodies on private properties
- Limited telecommunications and infrastructure
- Reduced access to aquatic programs and facilities

In response to these challenges, Royal Life Saving has delivered a range of tailored and impactful initiatives to build community resilience. This includes thousands of vocational qualifications, targeted support for disadvantaged children, and delivery of high-quality swimming and water safety programs across rural areas.

Our community-led approach includes the development of local water safety plans through active consultation with local government, educators, and community leaders. These place-based strategies ensure interventions are culturally relevant, practical, and sustainable.

We remain firmly committed to reducing drowning risks in regional and remote communities by advocating for equitable access to aquatic education, resourcing local infrastructure needs, and training the community to respond effectively to aquatic emergencies.

Looking Ahead

In 2025–26, we will deepen our engagement with regional and remote communities through locally designed programs, collaborative partnerships, and tailored water safety strategies. Our focus will be on closing the access gap and ensuring all Australians—regardless of location—can enjoy the water safely and confidently.

SHOWCASE

Making Waves with SwimVac 2025: Building Skills and Saving Lives, One Lesson at a Time

SwimVac continues to be a cornerstone of Royal Life Saving NSW's efforts to deliver vital swimming and water safety education to children across the state. In 2025, the program reached 49 venues, employed 52 dedicated instructors, and recorded 2,217 enrolments across two intensive weeks of community-based aquatic education.

This program provides more than just lessons — it delivers critical life skills to children in regional and rural areas who often face limited access to structured swim instruction.

A Story of Dedication: Sue and Marg in Jindera

Among SwimVac's many success stories, the journey of Sue and Marg, two passionate swim teachers, stands out. Their involvement with the program began in 2021, when COVID-19 restrictions curtailed their usual teaching opportunities. Eager to continue their work, they applied for a placement in Jindera, a small rural town near Marg's daughter's home — listing it as their first, second, and third preference.

They were welcomed with open arms and quickly became cherished members of the local community. From their first sessions, it was clear they were making a real impact. Parents were amazed by the progress their children made under Sue and Marg's instruction. Many asked whether they would return — and the answer was a resounding yes.

Growing Impact, Growing Community

By 2023, demand had grown so significantly that a Royal Life Saving NSW film crew visited Jindera to capture the heart of the program. This recognition only deepened Sue and Marg's dedication. In 2025, they expanded the program further, working full-day shifts and welcoming back students who had grown from cautious preschoolers into confident swimmers.

Moments That Matter

Some of their most rewarding experiences include:

- Watching children overcome fear and discover the joy of movement in the water
- Supporting students as they progressed from water apprehension to confidently entering deep water
- Hearing from a parent whose child, thanks to SwimVac training, was able to calmly rescue himself after unexpectedly falling into the water during a beach holiday

These stories reinforce the life-changing — and often life-saving — value of the SwimVac program.

More Than a Program – A Community Legacy

For Sue and Marg, SwimVac has become the highlight of their year. Their dedication has made a lasting impression on Jindera's families, and the community now embraces them as their own. Their message to others is simple:

> "If you love the water and want to make a difference in children's lives, SwimVac is the place to be."

This is more than just a job. It's an opportunity to inspire, empower, and protect — leaving children with not just memories, but the confidence and skills to navigate the water safely for life.



Accelerating Programs that Focus on Adult Swimming Skills

Royal Life Saving is strategically focused on accelerating programs that enhance adult swimming skills and address the specific needs of an ageing population. As Australians are living longer, healthier lives than previous generations, aquatic activity offers a low-impact, enjoyable way to stay active. However, reduced mobility and pre-existing health conditions place older adults at a heightened risk of drowning.

Reducing drowning among Australians aged 65 and older is a growing priority. While many in this age group remain active and engaged, they often lack access to tailored aquatic safety education. The Connecting Seniors campaign encourages older Australians to embrace aquatic activity throughout their lives—supporting fun, fitness, and wellbeing in, on, and around the water.

Research from the Australian Sports Commission highlights concerning trends in physical inactivity:

- **59%** of adults aged 55–64 do not meet recommended activity levels.
- **75%** of adults aged 65+ fall below suggested exercise guidelines.

Given these figures, Royal Life Saving is promoting aquatic-based recreation—such as swimming, aqua aerobics, kayaking, or even walking by the water—as vital to improving physical, mental, and social wellbeing. Unfortunately, the number of drowning deaths among older Australians continues to rise, with approximately **60 fatalities each year**. Falls into water remain one of the most common causes.

Maintaining physical fitness and water awareness is key to reducing these risks and ensuring all adults can enjoy water safely. It is never too late to engage in water-based activity, and with the right support, every Australian can benefit from a "water way of life."

SHOWCASE

Empowering Active and Connected Seniors: Promoting Aquatic Fitness and Lifesaving Skills Across Regional NSW

At Royal Life Saving NSW, we believe that staying active and learning lifesaving skills should be accessible to everyone — including our senior community members. In 2024–25, we proudly delivered the Connecting Seniors Program, a pilot initiative designed to support older adults in embracing aquatic fitness while gaining confidence in CPR and emergency response.

Funded through the Connecting Seniors Grant by the NSW Government, this initiative was made possible through valuable partnerships with regional councils and community pools across New South Wales.

Program Reach and Locations

Over the course of the pilot, we delivered 10 programs in partnership with pools and councils across:

- Batemans Bay
- Central Coast
- Goulburn
- Lake Macquarie
- Maitland
- Raymond Terrace
- Richmond Valley
- Toronto
- Tweed

In total, more than 240 seniors participated in the program, engaging in health-focused aquatic activity and vital CPR education in welcoming, social environments.

Program Components

Each program featured a holistic blend of physical, educational, and social components:

- Two in-water sessions led by local instructors, including low-impact, enjoyable aqua aerobics
- CPR awareness presentation delivered by Royal Life Saving NSW, empowering seniors to act in emergencies
- Morning teas to encourage connection and conversation among participants
- Take-home resources on the benefits of aquatic exercise and CPR skill reinforcement

Measurable Impact

The program's success was supported by strong post-program evaluation:

- 100% of participants reported feeling more confident in their ability to perform or assist with CPR
- Most participants indicated a desire to continue aquatic exercise as part of their regular fitness routine

Community Collaboration

The success of Connecting Seniors would not have been possible without the support of:

- Our partner councils and local aquatic facilities, whose enthusiasm and engagement were key
- The NSW Government, for funding this inclusive and life-enhancing program
- The participants, whose energy, openness, and community spirit made each session meaningful and memorable

Looking Ahead

The Connecting Seniors Program highlights the power of aquatic fitness and lifesaving education to improve wellbeing, confidence, and social connection among older Australians. Royal Life Saving NSW is committed to expanding this model, ensuring senior communities across the state remain active, engaged, and empowered — in and around the water.









Maintaining and Expanding Our Health and Community Developments

Royal Life Saving is committed to supporting community water safety priorities through strong collaborations with strategic organisations and local partners. Our mission remains focused on reaching those often overlooked—ensuring inclusive, balanced, and accessible water safety education for all Australians.

By partnering with research institutions, we develop evidence-based, high-quality strategies that guide our efforts. A central pillar of this work involves supporting culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, who continue to face disproportionate risk when engaging with aquatic environments.

Migrants and refugees often lack strong swimming skills and water safety knowledge, and with the continued arrival of new Australians from diverse backgrounds, adapting our drowning prevention strategies has never been more critical.

Each year, an average of 274 people drown in Australia, and one in four of those fatalities involves someone born overseas. Most victims are men who drown in rivers, often under the influence of alcohol—paralleling Australian-born trends. However, research reveals unique risk factors for those born overseas, highlighting the need for targeted prevention strategies tailored to specific groups such as permanent residents, tourists, international students, and seasonal workers.

Although the highest numbers of drowning deaths occur among those born in the UK and New Zealand, migrant populations from Korea, Taiwan, and India face the highest drowning rates. This calls for clear, culturally sensitive messaging and targeted community engagement.

A key aspect of this approach involves fostering cultural diversity within the aquatic workforce. A more inclusive industry not only reflects the communities it serves but can also help bridge language and cultural gaps to improve program reach and relevance.

By maintaining and expanding our health and community initiatives, Royal Life Saving aims to ensure that every person—regardless of background—has the opportunity to participate safely in aquatic activities and benefit from vital water safety education.

SHOWCASE

Penrith Beach Community Water Safety Day: Breaking Barriers, Building Confidence Around Water

In a unique collaboration, Royal Life Saving NSW and Surf Life Saving NSW delivered a powerful series of Community Water Safety Days at Penrith Beach, reaching over 250 community members across three dedicated events.

This initiative, held over a three-month period, was designed to support individuals and families from at-risk and culturally diverse communities in Greater Western Sydney — many of whom face significant barriers to accessing traditional swimming and water safety programs due to language, cost, or unfamiliarity with aquatic environments.

Engaging, Inclusive, and Practical

Delivered in a welcoming, hands-on format, each event featured rotating interactive stations that provided vital knowledge in a safe, no-swimming-required setting. Sessions included:

- **Inland Waterway Safety –** Staying safe around rivers, lakes, and dams
- **Lifejacket Safety –** Importance of lifejackets and correct fitting
- **Dryland Rescues –** Simple techniques for helping others without entering the water
- **CPR Awareness –** Basics of emergency response and lifesaving compressions
- **Beach & Rock Fishing Safety –** Practical strategies for safer fishing experiences

Each session concluded with an open group Q&A, followed by a free community lunch and time to enjoy the facilities at Penrith Beach.

Designed for Impact

This series was thoughtfully tailored to engage those with limited swimming experience and those traditionally underrepresented in water safety programs. By removing barriers and focusing on practical, culturally sensitive education, the events provided a critical entry point for safer engagement with aquatic environments.

Strong Partnerships, Stronger Communities

This initiative was proudly supported by:

- NSW Government
- Surf Life Saving NSW
- Fisheries NSW
- Maritime NSW

Together, these partnerships helped create an inclusive, informative, and community-led program that demonstrated how cross-agency collaboration can extend the reach of lifesaving water safety education.

Looking Ahead

The success of the Penrith Beach Community Water Safety Days highlights the importance of locally delivered, culturally inclusive programs that reach beyond the pool and beach. Royal Life Saving NSW remains committed to ensuring that everyone, regardless of background or ability, has the opportunity to learn how to stay safe in, on, and around water.



Driving Participation in Lifesaving Programs for a More Prepared and Resilient Community

At Royal Life Saving, we are committed to rejuvenating our sporting and active recreation pursuits by providing a range of unique options that build upon foundational swimming and water safety experiences. Through strong connections with the aquatic, education, and sporting sectors, we continue to expand participation opportunities and promote inclusion across communities.

Sport and active recreation are vital components of life in rural, regional, and remote Australia. They unite communities, strengthen identity, foster a sense of belonging, encourage social inclusion, and support physical and mental wellbeing.

In 2023–24, we significantly increased the reach and engagement of our Junior Lifesaver program, enabling thousands of children to develop their aquatic capabilities through structured lifesaving activities. This initiative provides a clear and supported pathway for young people to grow into future athletes and community leaders in lifesaving.

Further expansion is planned in the coming year, ensuring more communities gain access to these important programs.

To support high-performance pathways, Royal Life Saving has continued its strong collaboration with Surf Life Saving in co-hosting the State Pool Life Saving Championships. This unified platform enables athletes from both organisations to compete at elite levels and strengthens the overall profile of lifesaving sport.

By driving participation in lifesaving programs, we build a more prepared and resilient community. These initiatives equip individuals with essential safety skills, enhance community capability, and foster a culture of active participation, inclusion, and excellence.

Looking Ahead

We will continue to invest in programs that create long-term pathways from community engagement to elite participation, expanding our Junior Lifesaver and competitive lifesaving opportunities. Our focus will remain on increasing reach into regional and underrepresented communities, ensuring every Australian has the chance to develop life-saving skills and be part of a safer, stronger, and more connected society.

SHOWCASE

Junior Lifesavers at Penrith Beach: Bringing Beach Safety and Fun to Western Sydney



Royal Life Saving NSW, in partnership with the NSW Government and Surf Life Saving NSW, proudly launched a free 10-week Junior Lifesavers Program at Penrith Beach during Term 1, 2025. Designed for children aged 5 to 12, the program brings the energy and excitement of Nippers to Western Sydney — a region where many families have limited access to coastal aquatic environments.

Drawing on the Junior Lifesavers and Outback Lifesavers resources, the program features an engaging lineup of beach safety and aquatic activities, including:

- Beach flags and wading races
- Rescue simulations using noodles and boards
- Lifejacket safety drills
- Team games like beach soccer
- Water confidence and survival techniques

Each Saturday morning, two sessions are delivered, engaging up to 80 children per week. The sessions run for 60 to 90 minutes, led by a team of four instructors and one supervisor. While some staff are qualified swim teachers or pool lifeguards, others are new to instructing — making this a valuable learning experience for all involved.

Already, the program has significantly boosted water confidence, encouraged social connections, and provided a safe and fun introduction to lifesaving for young people in the region.

SHOWCASE

Lifesaving Programs Across the Community: Empowering Children and Youth with Safety Skills Statewide

Beyond Penrith Beach, Royal Life Saving NSW has supported a wide array of community-based lifesaving programs that promote water confidence, emergency preparedness, and aquatic safety across the state:



Glenwood High School – Year 7 Swimming & Lifesaving Program

In December, 177 Year 7 students participated in Glenwood High's annual lifesaving program. Over four days, students built confidence, improved swim technique, and practiced basic rescue and emergency response skills — with enthusiastic support from teachers and student helpers. This successful program continues to set a strong foundation for aquatic education in schools.



Enfield Lifesaving Club – Primary School Excursion

Thanks to a Burwood RSL grant, Enfield Lifesaving Club hosted two local primary schools for their Year 6 end-of-year excursion. Organised by club member Andrew Pearce, and supported by dedicated club volunteers, the event offered children essential lifesaving education in a fun and supportive setting — reinforcing the Club's commitment to community wellbeing.



Inner West Aquatics – Dawn Fraser Baths Junior Lifesavers Clinic

During the summer holidays, Inner West Aquatics launched their first Junior Lifesavers clinic at the historic Dawn Fraser Baths. The program was fully booked each day, with participants enjoying three hours of hands-on learning, including CPR practice, survival skills, and rescue simulations. Program coordinator Louise Magee plans to expand the program over the Easter school holidays and develop a multi-week initiative moving forward.



Parramatta Aquatic Centre – School Holiday Junior Lifesavers Program

Supported by Parramatta Leagues Club, the Parramatta Aquatic Centre delivered a 3-day Junior Lifesavers program as part of their school holiday swimming intensives. The program was well-attended, and led by coordinator Simone Skewes, who received excellent feedback from families. Participants gained valuable water safety skills and confidence — laying the groundwork for a lifetime of safer aquatic activity.

These programs exemplify Royal Life Saving's commitment to early intervention, community collaboration, and the promotion of lifesaving skills across all ages and backgrounds. From local beaches to community pools, we're proud to support the next generation of Junior Lifesavers as they grow into strong, confident, and capable water users.

SHOWCASE

Athletes Shine at the 2025 Australian Pool Lifesaving Championships

The Australian Pool Lifesaving Championships (APLSC) were held from 16–18 January at the iconic Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre. This national competition brought together athletes from across Australia, competing in both speed and initiative events in one of the country's premier aquatic venues.

A total of 29 athletes represented both Interstate and Development Teams, showcasing their talent, teamwork, and dedication to lifesaving sport.

The Championships opened with the 200m Obstacle Race, 4x50m Obstacle Relay, 12.5m Line Throw, and 100m Manikin Carry. The first day brought impressive results: 3 Bronze, 6 Silver, and 6 Gold medals were earned across individual and team events. The U19 age group performed strongly in the CPR event, with the women placing 4th, 5th, and 7th.

Day Two saw competitors take on the 100m Manikin Carry, 4x25m Manikin Carry Relay, and 100m Rescue Medley, with 1 Bronze and 6 Silver medals collected. Teams also participated in the Simulated Emergency Response Competition (SERC), where staged emergencies tested their real-time lifesaving skills. The U19 State Team secured a Gold Medal in this challenging event.

The CPR competition continued for U16 and Open categories. Standout performances included:

- Caleb Pryce – Gold, U16 Men
- Holly Holmesby – Gold, Open Women
- Nick Hodgers – Silver, Open Men

Their collective achievements helped secure the Overall Open Team Champion title in the CPR category.

The final day featured high-energy events such as the 50m Manikin Carry, 200m Superlifesaver, Medley and Pool Lifesaver relays, and the 8x50m Fin Relay. Teams added 5 Bronze, 5 Silver, and 2 Gold medals to their tally, closing out the competition with outstanding camaraderie and spirit.



Interclub Competition Success

Several lifesaving clubs also made their mark in the Interclub Competition:

- Parramatta City: Fielded six athletes, including standout performers in U14 events. Alun Griffiths earned top points in the 60 & Over category.
- Enfield: Sent three athletes and contributed volunteers as officials and SERC actors.
- Hills Swimming & Lifesaving Club: A strong team of nine athletes aged 11–66. Recognised with the CPR Competition Encouragement Award, receiving a new Little Anne Manikin and voucher.
- Engadine Lifesaving Club: Seven athletes, including Jake Fitzgerald, who at 12 years old won Gold in the U16 CPR competition, showing remarkable skill and composure.

The event concluded with the Presentation Function at The Epping Club, where Perpetual Trophies were awarded. Brayden Woodford was named Male Lifesaver of the Meet for his exceptional performance. While Western Australia claimed the Interstate Overall Championship and the Sir Percy Joske Trophy, the third-place finish for the team capped off a strong and inspiring campaign.

Special thanks go to Head Coach Ethan Garland, and team managers Rob Dale and Sarah Fitzgerald for their leadership, coordination, and support throughout the competition.

With sights now set on APLSC 2026 in Perth, excitement is already building. Following such a successful campaign, athletes are eager to represent their teams again at the national stage.

SHOWCASE

NSW State Lifesaving Championships – A Celebration of Skill, Spirit, and Unity

The NSW State Lifesaving Championships, held on 21–22 June 2025, was a resounding success, showcasing the strength of collaboration between Royal Life Saving NSW and Surf Life Saving NSW. With over 250 athletes and officials in attendance, the event brought together competitors from across the state—and beyond—in a celebration of lifesaving sport, skill, and community.

Hosted at Cranbrook School Aquatic Centre, the venue provided an outstanding backdrop for a weekend of fierce but friendly competition across a wide range of age groups. Importantly, the event marked a clear evolution: from what was once a participation-driven event, it has now grown into a truly competitive state-level championship, drawing high-calibre athletes and national attention.





Highlights from the 2025 Championships included:

> World-Class Performances:

- **Ronnie Dalsgaard** of Manly SLSC set an unofficial world record in the Men's 40–44 100m Manikin Tow.
- **Carl Cauan,** just 15 years old from Parramatta City LSC, broke the Open Men's National Record in the 12.5m Line Throw, a remarkable feat against senior competitors.

> Increased Youth Participation: The 2025 event saw an increase in heats across younger age groups compared to 2024, a promising indicator of growing engagement and talent at grassroots levels. With this growth, the organising team is now exploring the potential introduction of qualifying times for future championships to maintain competitive standards.

> International and Interstate Representation: The Championships welcomed an athlete from the Canadian National Team and another from a Queensland-based club, adding to the event's diversity and prestige.

> Smooth Operations and Planning for the Future: The event ran seamlessly, with excellent feedback from participants, officials, and the host venue. Cranbrook School has expressed enthusiasm to host again, solidifying a strong partnership. Looking ahead, a joint RLSNSW–SLSNSW subcommittee will convene in August to review event logistics, refine rules, enhance official allocations, and plan for an even more successful 2026 Championships.

This championship was not only a showcase of athletic excellence but also a testament to the dedication of officials, coaches, parents, and volunteers who provide the unwavering support that enables our athletes to thrive. Royal Life Saving NSW remains proud to co-host this event as part of our broader commitment to building a strong, inclusive, and high-performing lifesaving sport community.

SHOWCASE

Australia Heads to the 2025 RLSS Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships

A selection of Australia's most talented pool lifesaving athletes are preparing to represent the nation at the 2025 Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships, held from 10–13 July in Swansea, Wales.

Two elite teams — a **National Team** and a **Development Team** — have been chosen to compete in a range of challenging events, including the manikin carry, line throw, and super lifesaver. These events are designed to test both speed and technique in simulated rescue situations.

Pool lifesaving, one of the three core disciplines in international lifesaving sport, showcases essential aquatic rescue skills in a controlled still-water environment. It complements ocean and beach disciplines while reinforcing vital capabilities used by real-world lifesavers.

Royal Life Saving Australia's National Manager – Lifesaving Development, **Brooke Cherfils,** noted the promising future of the sport:

> "We have a young team this year, reflecting the potential of the Australian Lifesaving Youth Team pathway for the Lifesaving World Championship 2026. We are excited to provide this opportunity for them to showcase their skills on the international stage."

These athletes are more than competitors — they are dedicated swim teachers, pool lifeguards, and club volunteers who apply their lifesaving skills daily in pools, rivers, lakes, and coastal waters across Australia.

"Pool lifesaving is more than a sport — it's a training ground for lifesavers who make a real difference in their communities," said Ms Cherfils. "The skills on display in competition are the same that help save lives in real emergencies."

The Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships not only provide a prestigious platform for competition but also highlight the critical role of lifesaving skills in preventing drowning across the Commonwealth. Royal Life Saving is proud to support these athletes as they carry the spirit of lifesaving onto the world stage.

Representatives from NSW

National Team : Chelsea Jones, Madison Jones, Brayden Woodford, Nicholas Hodgers

Development Team : Stephanie Staniforth

Management Team:
Development Team Coach – Ethan Garland
Team Assistant Team Manager – Robert Dale


7
8



Safe Environments

Creating safer and more inclusive aquatic environments.

Creating safer and more inclusive aquatic environments

To benefit from our urban and natural aquatic environments opportunities to engage and be supported by a skilled and knowledgeable sector are vital. A strong, intelligent network ensures quality outcomes and successful aquatic experiences.

Our Goal

We will build a skilled and resilient workforce and sector capable of providing broad aquatic opportunities safely and confidently.

Actions:

- Drive investment in aquatic infrastructure to enhance the community's ability to enjoy the water
- Aquatic safety policy and plans for swimming pools and inland waterways are embedded through government and industry
- Aquatic locations and workplaces are equipped with necessary lifesaving equipment and resources



Sydney International Regatta Centre, Penrith



Drive Investment in Aquatic Infrastructure to Enhance the Enjoyment of Water

Royal Life Saving is dedicated to creating safer and more inclusive aquatic environments. As leaders in the planning and coordination of risk minimisation strategies, we work closely with the aquatic sector and government partners to provide high-level advice to facility operators and community planners. Our goal is to enhance the aquatic experience for all, while supporting legislative compliance and the implementation of best practice safety standards.

Australia's public aquatic facilities generate substantial social and economic value—not only through recreation and community connection, but also through the broader healthcare benefits associated with increased physical activity. Swimming and aquatic exercise have been proven to improve health outcomes, reduce the burden on health systems, and foster lifelong habits of fitness and wellbeing.

These environments also provide a safe, supervised space for individuals to build foundational aquatic survival skills before venturing into open or uncontrolled waterways. Lifeguard supervision, structured learning programs, and facility design features such as marked depths and accessible entry points play a critical role in improving water confidence and safety.

With the high costs of building and maintaining traditional public swimming pools, land managers and councils are increasingly exploring the use of inland waterways as alternative venues for community recreation. When managed appropriately, these natural spaces offer significant mental, physical, and social benefits—particularly for communities in rural, remote, or underserved areas. However, leveraging these environments safely requires careful planning, investment, and implementation of risk mitigation measures.

By driving investment in both traditional aquatic infrastructure and the safe activation of natural waterways, we can enhance community wellbeing, promote inclusion, and expand opportunities for safe aquatic participation. Through strategic partnerships, evidence-informed guidance, and innovative safety solutions, Royal Life Saving continues to lead efforts that support sustainable aquatic access for all Australians—regardless of location, background, or ability.

We remain committed to ensuring that aquatic environments, whether built or natural, are safe, welcoming, and inclusive spaces for all members of the community to enjoy.

SHOWCASE

Aquatic Risk Team Undertakes Safety Assessment at the Iconic Bondi Icebergs: Ensuring Safe Experiences at One of Australia's Most Historic Ocean Baths

In 2024–25, the Royal Life Saving NSW Aquatic Risk Team was engaged to conduct a comprehensive safety assessment at Bondi Icebergs, one of the most iconic aquatic venues in Australia.

With a deep understanding of aquatic environments — from public pools and resort facilities to natural enclosures and ocean baths — the Aquatic Risk Team was well-positioned to evaluate the unique characteristics of the Bondi Icebergs ocean pools. The assessment included a review of:

- Ocean bath design and structural safety
- Accessibility and entry/exit points
- Operational safety measures
- Risk controls associated with the club's swimming programs
- Learn-to-swim facilities and practices

Supporting Excellence in Aquatic Education

The Icebergs Learn to Swim School offers outdoor instruction in a 17-metre saltwater pool, delivering lessons in a highly focused 1:3 teacher-to-child ratio. The open-air, ocean-side environment presents both opportunity and complexity — requiring the highest standard of supervision, risk management, and instructional care.

A Proud Swimming Legacy

The Bondi Icebergs Winter Swimming Club, established in 1929, is the only licensed winter swimming club in the world. Originally formed by a group of local lifesavers aiming to maintain their fitness through the colder months, the club created its famously rigorous "Rule 15B", mandating participation in three out of four Sunday swims for five consecutive winters to maintain membership.

This tradition of discipline and endurance has defined the Icebergs community for nearly a century.

A Commitment to Safety and Continuous Improvement

The invitation for Royal Life Saving to assess the Bondi Icebergs facility reflects the club's ongoing commitment to safety, excellence, and community service. This partnership signifies a shared desire to uphold the highest aquatic standards — ensuring that both club members and public visitors experience a safe and memorable engagement with the water.

Through collaborations like this, Royal Life Saving NSW continues to support aquatic venues across the state in providing environments that are not only inspiring and iconic — but above all, safe.





SHOWCASE

Risk Management Services

In the field of Aquatic Risk Management, Royal Life Saving has distinguished itself as a specialist service provider. Our work is centred on leveraging community strengths and expert knowledge to reduce aquatic-related injuries and drownings. We adopt a multidisciplinary approach to support the effective and sustainable management of aquatic venues and facilities—ensuring alignment with contemporary business practices, evolving legislation, and industry-leading standards.

Over the past year, we have assisted a diverse range of aquatic operators in developing and implementing tailored risk management strategies. These initiatives aim not only to prevent incidents but also to foster a proactive culture of safety among both staff and patrons. Our services form a vital component of sustainable aquatic operations, ensuring public confidence and operational excellence.

Our broad range of risk management solutions caters to the varied needs of aquatic facilities and waterway managers. These cost-effective services are designed to enhance safety outcomes and compliance across both built and natural aquatic environments.

Our specialised services include:

Local Water Safety Planning – Tailored safety frameworks that reflect local risks, community needs, and environmental considerations.

Safety Equipment Provision – Supplying key safety items to support emergency readiness and safe patron engagement.

Aquatic Facility Safety Assessments – Evaluating policies, procedures, and physical environments to identify and mitigate risks.

Facility Design Assessment – Reviewing existing or planned infrastructure to ensure safety, accessibility, and compliance.

Mystery Guest Assessments – Discreet evaluations of frontline safety practices and customer service standards.

Supervision Validation Assessments – Reviewing staffing levels and practices to ensure adequate patron surveillance and response.

Signage Assessment – Assessing visibility, placement, and clarity of signage used for safety and wayfinding.

Emergency Action Plans – Developing site-specific emergency response strategies and supporting drills.

Operations Manuals – Creating comprehensive operational documents that embed safety, efficiency, and compliance.

Aquatic Consultancy – Strategic advisory services supporting operational planning, facility upgrades, and regulatory alignment.

Incident Investigations – Independent reviews of incidents to identify contributing factors and recommend improvements.

Inland Waterway Safety Assessments – Reviewing unmanaged or natural water sites to support safer public access and use.

Through these services, Royal Life Saving remains committed to supporting safer aquatic environments—ensuring that every facility and waterway user can participate with confidence and security. By combining evidence, experience, and community collaboration, we continue to shape the national conversation around aquatic safety and risk leadership.

Looking Ahead

In August 2025, Royal Life Saving NSW will host its first **"Swimposium"**, a dedicated forum aimed at broadening the national conversation around aquatic infrastructure. This event will bring together government, industry leaders, architects, and community stakeholders to explore solutions and future considerations for ensuring that accessible, fit-for-purpose aquatic facilities are prioritised across all communities. The Swimposium will serve as a catalyst for innovation, equity, and long-term planning in Australia's aquatic landscape.

SHOWCASE

Safety Partnership for New Parramatta River Swim Site: Designing a Safer Future at Callan Park Tidal Pool

Royal Life Saving NSW is proud to partner with Inner West Council to support the design and safety planning of a proposed new public swimming site: the Callan Park Tidal Pool on the Parramatta River, Leichhardt.

As part of the Council's strategic vision to "identify and plan for new river swim sites" — including the reinstatement of the historic Leichhardt Tidal Baths — this project represents a bold step toward revitalising urban waterways for both recreation and community wellbeing.

The partnership is guided by a shared belief: that healthy rivers and healthy communities go hand-in-hand. By establishing a safe, inclusive space for swimming at Callan Point, the project delivers on both environmental and social objectives — creating a new opportunity for residents and visitors to enjoy the Parramatta River.

Industry-Led Design Guidance

The Royal Life Saving Industry Services Team was engaged to provide a comprehensive design safety assessment, offering expert advice to architects, engineers, and Council planners. The review focused on ensuring:

- Alignment with national and international water safety standards
- Appropriate rescue access and egress points
- Clear safety and wayfinding signage
- Consideration of environmental, tidal and structural dynamics
- Safe design to maximise inclusivity and accessibility

By incorporating relevant building standards, water safety best practice, and rescue signage guidelines, the Callan Park Tidal Pool will be as inclusive and accessible as possible.

Planning for a Safer, More Connected River

Designing and delivering a safe urban swimming site requires not only technical knowledge, but deep collaboration with local stakeholders and community members. Royal Life Saving's involvement ensures that every step — from design to delivery — is guided by proven safety principles and informed by best practice in aquatic risk management.

This initiative is aligned with broader recommendations from Business Western Sydney, which recently urged the NSW Government to embrace a strategy to reactivate the Parramatta River for community and environmental benefit.

Looking Ahead

The Callan Park Tidal Pool is more than a new swim site — it's a catalyst for reconnecting communities with their local waterways. Through smart design, strong partnerships, and a commitment to public safety, the project will help foster a culture of safe aquatic recreation across Greater Sydney.

Royal Life Saving NSW remains committed to ensuring that every new place to swim is also a place to swim safely.



Callan Park Tidal Pool

SHOWCASE

Aquatic Facility Safety Assessment Highlights: Supporting Safer Pools Across NSW

The Royal Life Saving NSW **Aquatic Risk Team** had a productive season, working closely with facility operators to help meet their **work health and safety (WHS)** and **compliance requirements**. Through the **Aquatic Facility Safety Assessment (AFSA)** program, facility managers gain practical, independent insight into their performance against current industry safety standards and legislative obligations.

Now in its third decade, AFSA remains one of the most effective tools for identifying risks, recognising excellence, and guiding continuous improvement in aquatic facility operations across the state.

Recognising Improvement and Excellence

Some standout achievements from recent assessments include:

> Branxton Swimming Pool

- 96% Safety Score
  (↑ 20% from 76% in 2022)
- 98% 5-Star Water Safety Partner Accreditation
  (↑ 23% from 75% in 2022)

> Cessnock Swimming Pool

- 97% Safety Score
  (↑ 20% from 77% in 2022)
- 98% 5-Star Water Safety Partner Accreditation
  (↑ 23% from 75% in 2022)

> Gunyama Aquatic Centre

- 99% Safety Score
- 99% 5-Star Water Safety Partner Accreditation







> Katoomba Sports and Aquatic Centre

- 97% Safety Score
- 98% 5-Star Water Safety Partner Accreditation

> Springwood Aquatic and Fitness Centre

- 98% Safety Score
- 98% 5-Star Water Safety Partner Accreditation

These exceptional results are a testament to the dedication of aquatic facility staff and their commitment to providing safe, compliant, and high-quality environments for their communities.

Top: Branxton Swimming Pool Staff
Middle: Cessnock Swimming Pool Staff
Bottom: Gunyama Aquatic Centre Staff

About the AFSA Program
A Trusted Framework for Safer Aquatic Facilities

Established in 1996, the Aquatic Facility Safety Assessment provides a structured, expert-led evaluation of aquatic operations against:

- Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations (GSPO)
- Australian Standards
- State and Territory legislation

The assessment is updated annually by a panel of safety and operational experts, ensuring that each facility is reviewed against the most current best practices and compliance frameworks.

Key Benefits of AFSA

- Benchmark your facility's performance against national standards
- Gain independent, expert advice and recommendations
- Support the training and development of facility staff
- Stay aligned with legislative changes and safety expectations
- Demonstrate formal risk management practices
- Reduce legal and operational risk
- Strengthen your relationship with the peak industry body
- Achieve recognition through the **5-Star Water Safety Partner Program**

The AFSA is more than just an audit — it is a collaborative process that supports continuous improvement, empowers facility teams, and ultimately reduces the likelihood and consequence of aquatic-related injury and death.

Let us help you create a safer aquatic environment for your patrons, staff, and community.



SHOWCASE

Mole Creek Pool to Reopen: A Community Reunited Through Lifesaving Support



After two years of closure due to a lifeguard shortage, the Mole Creek Swimming Pool will officially reopen this summer — thanks to a powerful partnership between Royal Life Saving Tasmania and TasNetworks.

Through TasNetworks' Community Grants Program, Royal Life Saving Tasmania secured funding to deliver lifeguard training for 14 local volunteers. This essential training will enable the community to once again access a cherished recreational space — just in time for the summer school holidays.

Training a New Wave of Volunteers

The lifeguard team reflects the incredible dedication of the Mole Creek community, with volunteers ranging in age from 16 to 66. As Karina Siggins, Manager of Royal Life Saving Tasmania, noted:

> "The ages of these volunteers as Pool Lifeguards depict the commitment of local residents to get the pool operating again. It's a remarkable community effort."

Lifeguard training is scheduled for late September, followed by a thorough clean-up and maintenance phase led by members of the Mole Creek Progress Association, who manage the facility.

A Vital Rural Asset

Located in Tasmania's Meander Valley, the Mole Creek Swimming Pool has been a central pillar of the community for over 40 years. Its closure left a significant gap in local recreation and water safety education, particularly for children and families with limited access to alternative aquatic facilities.

Thanks to this initiative, the pool is scheduled to reopen in early December, bringing renewed opportunities for exercise, connection, and water safety.

Supporting Stronger Communities

Chris Warr, Leader of Major Projects Engagement at TasNetworks, emphasised the broader impact of the grant:

"TasNetworks recognises the critical role that community recreational facilities play in creating a positive difference in the lives of Tasmanians. Supporting the reopening of the Mole Creek Swimming Pool ensures this vital asset is once again accessible to all, offering lasting benefits for health, social connection, and local resilience."

Great Outcome!

This project highlights what's possible when organisations, volunteers, and local councils come together with a shared vision. Through the support of TasNetworks and the commitment of the Mole Creek Progress Association, the return of this rural pool marks more than just a reopening — it is the restoration of a community hub that promotes safety, inclusion, and wellbeing.

Royal Life Saving Tasmania is proud to be part of this success story and remains committed to supporting aquatic access and safety in communities across the state.

Skilled Community

Developing the capability of individuals to swim, survive and supervise.

Ensuring Aquatic Competency

To acquire aquatic growth and prosperity our communities and learners need access to trained and professional practitioners, highly skilled supervisors, risk experts, policy makers and educational developments and solutions.

Our Goal

We will develop networks with supporting tools and resources to provide our communities with high quality training, education, advocacy and risk solutions. These developments will be supported by underpinning evidence and data to ensure relevance and appropriateness.

Actions:

- Strengthen our support to the swimming and lifesaving workforce
- Expand our training solutions to ensure a strong network of highly skilled community members
- Expand our education platforms to strengthen community awareness in aquatic safety
- Embed innovative education campaigns to support community awareness





Supporting Industry Workforce Health, Safety, and Professional Development

Royal Life Saving is deeply committed to supporting the broader workforce that underpins the aquatic industry. Over the past 12 months, we have delivered a range of professional development initiatives designed to equip industry employees with the skills, knowledge, and confidence required to perform their roles safely and effectively. These initiatives have included targeted training, leadership development, mental health awareness, and upskilling opportunities across key frontline roles such as pool lifeguards, swim teachers, and customer service personnel.

However, emerging workforce challenges have prompted an urgent need for additional support measures. Of particular concern is the increasing prevalence of threats, aggression, and acts of violence directed at aquatic facility employees. These incidents have become more frequent and severe, placing undue pressure on staff and compromising their sense of safety and wellbeing.

In response, Royal Life Saving has worked closely with industry stakeholders, employers, and facility managers to develop and promote broad safety campaigns aimed at protecting frontline workers. These campaigns focus on creating safer, more respectful environments for both staff and patrons, highlighting the importance of zero tolerance for violence and aggression in public aquatic settings.

Our collaborative efforts continue to prioritise the physical and psychological wellbeing of the workforce, recognising that a safe, supported, and professionally developed workforce is essential to delivering quality aquatic services and ensuring positive community experiences. Royal Life Saving will remain a strong advocate for those who work on the frontline—acknowledging their essential contribution to public safety and community wellbeing.

SHOWCASE

Keep Your Cool at the Pool

Standing Up for Safety and Respect in Aquatic Centres

This summer, Royal Life Saving Australia launched the "Keep Your Cool at the Pool" campaign in response to a disturbing rise in incidents of violence, abuse, and aggression directed at lifeguards and swim teachers across the country. With over 2,000 reported incidents nationally, the campaign sets out to protect staff, promote positive patron behaviour, and reinforce the role of aquatic facilities as safe and welcoming environments for all.

A Call for Respect

"Lifeguards and swim teachers are essential to our communities. They keep our pools safe, guide learning, and respond to emergencies," said **Jason Phillips**, Aquatic Industry Development Manager at Royal Life Saving NSW.

"Many of these professionals are young, working in small teams, and often located in regional centres where recruitment is already a challenge. They deserve respect — not aggression."

The campaign highlights the critical issue of occupational violence, often directed at staff simply for enforcing safety protocols or offering guidance — particularly during peak periods when stress levels are high.

A Sector-Wide Response

RJ Houston, General Manager – Capability and Industry at Royal Life Saving, reinforced the purpose of the campaign:

> "This is about promoting a culture of respect, cooperation, and zero tolerance for aggression. Aquatic facilities should be safe spaces — not only for swimmers, but also for those who work there."

Industry partners including Belgravia Leisure have strongly endorsed the campaign. **Scott Vanderheyden**, Group Manager – Health & Safety, explained: "Lifeguards and swim teachers are often abused for doing their jobs — like reminding parents to supervise their children. This behaviour erodes their confidence and can delay crucial safety instructions. We all need to stand behind our staff."

Campaign Objectives

The **"Keep Your Cool at the Pool"** campaign is built around six core objectives:

1. Protect the safety and wellbeing of aquatic staff
2. Promote responsible and respectful patron behaviour
3. Establish national behavioural expectations for pool users
4. Support lifeguards and swim teachers in confidently delivering safety instructions
5. Strengthen workforce wellbeing and retention across the aquatic sector
6. Enhance the attractiveness of employment in aquatic recreation

By addressing both the symptoms and root causes of occupational aggression, the campaign serves as a proactive step in safeguarding the workforce and enhancing the community experience at aquatic facilities.

A Shared Responsibility

Royal Life Saving encourages all pool users to treat staff with respect, follow safety instructions, and help create a positive environment for everyone.

For more information and access to campaign resources, visit: www.royallifesaving.com.au



DID YOU KNOW?

Celebrating Icons: A Tribute to Aquatic Influence

Across generations and professions, a diverse group of globally recognised individuals has shared a common foundation: a connection to water safety, swim instruction, or lifesaving. From Olympic champions to Hollywood actors and political figures, their early or formative experiences in aquatic environments shaped not only their careers but also their values of responsibility, resilience, and service.

Matthew McConaughey developed a sense of calm and accountability as a swim teacher and pool lifeguard during his youth in Texas. In a 2015 interview and in his memoir Greenlights (2020), McConaughey reflected on this period of his life: "Teaching kids how to swim gave me a sense of responsibility and calm. You're watching someone else's kid. You gotta be present. You gotta be focused."

Hugh Jackman, before achieving global fame, taught swimming in Sydney, balancing his university studies with community-based swim instruction—work he recalls fondly as formative and meaningful.

Clint Eastwood served as a pool lifeguard and swimming instructor at Fort Ord during his U.S. Army service. His aquatic training played a crucial role when he swam over three miles to shore after surviving a military plane crash—an act of endurance tied directly to his lifeguard skills.

Paul Hogan, long before becoming the iconic Mick "Crocodile" Dundee, was a lifeguard at Granville Olympic Pool in Sydney. His aquatic role reflected both his physical capability and early flair for public performance.

Ronald Reagan, as seen below, the 40th President of the United States, served as a River lifeguard in Dixon, Illinois, for seven summers, saving 77 lives. He often spoke of it as one of his most rewarding jobs, laying the groundwork for his ethos of public service and leadership.



Tracey Menzies, one of Australia's most respected coaches, began her career as a learn-to-swim instructor. Her grassroots experience led her to coach five-time Olympic gold medalist Ian Thorpe, exemplifying the pathway from community teacher to elite mentor.

Nancy Edberg, the pioneering Swedish swim teacher of the 19th century, was the first woman to professionally teach swimming in Sweden. She established schools, taught royalty, and redefined societal norms by making swimming accessible to women across Europe.

Linda McGill, a trailblazing Australian Olympian and open-water swimmer, was awarded the Royal Life Saving Society's Bronze Medallion in 1958 and the Award of Merit in 1961. Her contributions to competitive and long-distance swimming were underscored by her commitment to lifesaving and aquatic safety. She represented Australia at the 1962 British Empire and Commonwealth Games in Perth, securing gold in the 4×110-yard medley relay, silver in the 440-yard individual medley, and bronze in the 110-yard butterfly. In 1964, she competed in four events at the Tokyo Olympics, achieving a fifth-place finish in the 400-meter individual medley. Linda was also the first Australian to swim the English Channel in 1965 where she successfully swam from France to England, setting a women's record for the swim at the time.

Queen Elizabeth II, in February 1941, at the age of 14, then-Princess Elizabeth became the first young person in the Commonwealth to receive the Royal Life Saving Society's Junior Respiration Award. She earned this distinction after completing training at the Bath Club in Mayfair, London, where she and her sister, Princess Margaret, took swimming lessons. Reflecting on this accomplishment during a video call with the RLSS in 2021, the Queen remarked: "I didn't realise I was the first one — I just did it and had to work very hard for it! It was a great achievement and I was very proud to wear the badge on the front of my swimming suit. It was very grand, I thought."

Sam Fricker, the Australian Olympic diver and social media influencer, has a notable connection to the Royal Life Saving Society's Bronze Medallion. He earned this lifesaving qualification during his high school years, reflecting the common practice among Australian students to engage in water safety programs. In 2025, to commemorate the 130th anniversary of Royal Life Saving, Fricker was honored with a commemorative Bronze Medallion certificate by New South Wales Premier Chris Minns, alongside Royal Life Saving President Jim Whiteside. This event highlighted his early involvement in lifesaving and his ongoing commitment to promoting water safety.



The Premier awarding Sam Fricker a replica Bronze Medallion



Embedding and Utilising Social Media for Community Engagement and Safety

Royal Life Saving recognises the significant benefits of embedding and utilising social media to deliver broad community messaging and engage specific demographics. Social media platforms offer unmatched reach and accessibility, enabling precise targeting, real-time interaction, and community building. They are cost-effective communication tools that support engaging content formats—such as videos, infographics, and live updates—helping to foster a loyal and informed audience.

To ensure drowning prevention messages are effectively distributed, Royal Life Saving has adopted a range of social media strategies that support educational campaigns, use storytelling to build emotional connections, and promote water safety through visual and relatable content. These platforms also serve to provide regular updates on key initiatives, ensuring the public remains aware, alert, and engaged.

Importantly, continued investment in social media includes active monitoring of engagement metrics and the production of multilingual content. This ensures our messaging is inclusive, culturally sensitive, and impactful across diverse communities.

By leveraging the power of social media, Royal Life Saving continues to expand its reach, strengthen community engagement, and advance its mission to educate and protect Australians in and around the water.

SHOWCASE

STOP LOOK STAY ALIVE

A Call to Action for Safer Summer Water Activities

This summer, Royal Life Saving launched the **STOP LOOK STAY ALIVE** campaign — a powerful public safety message encouraging all Australians to pause, assess, and act safely before engaging in swimming, boating, or fishing.

The campaign comes in response to sobering figures from the 2024 National Drowning Report, jointly published by Royal Life Saving – Australia and Surf Life Saving Australia. Over the past 12 months:

- 323 people lost their lives to drowning across Australia — 16% higher than the 10-year average of 278
- New South Wales recorded 128 drowning deaths, a 33% increase on its 10-year average
- Alarmingly, 31% of drowning deaths in NSW occurred in inland waterways — including rivers, lakes, and dams

A Simple Message with Life-Saving Impact

The **STOP LOOK STAY ALIVE** in partnership with the NSW Government and Surf Lifesaving NSW, focuses on three clear and actionable steps that can help prevent tragedy:

1. STOP

Take a moment before entering the water to:

- Check your health and fitness
- Know your limitations
- Learn to swim or refresh your skills

2. LOOK

Always assess your surroundings by:

- Checking weather forecasts
- Observing water and environmental conditions
- Reading and following all posted safety signs

3. STAY ALIVE

Follow the rules and adopt safe behaviours at all times. Simple decisions — like wearing a lifejacket, swimming with a mate, or avoiding alcohol — can make the difference between life and death.

Targeted Engagement for Greater Reach

This summer's campaign was activated across social media platforms, using tailored messaging to engage high-risk demographics, including:

- Men aged 25–64
- CALD and regional communities
- People engaging in inland waterway recreation
- Young people and families

The goal: to raise awareness, change behaviour, and empower communities to take personal responsibility for water safety.















Building a Safer Future Together

Royal Life Saving is working with government partners, local councils, and community organisations to reverse the upward trend in drowning fatalities. Our shared vision is a future where all Australians — regardless of where they live or their background — have the opportunity to enjoy a safe, confident, and informed relationship with the water.

We want everyone to enjoy our "water way of life" while knowing how to protect themselves and others in an emergency.









Sustainable Future

Building organisation growth and prosperity.

Long Term Organisational Capacity

To ensure long-term organisational growth and sector vibrance there is a need to build a cohesive and secure Royal Life Saving. Our priorities centre on establishing appropriate information, business process and financial models through a strong team that makes our vision a reality.

Our Goal

We will diversify and broaden revenue streams to support increased community and organisational investment. We will utilise our influence to strengthen our social impact and environmental sustainability of aquatic settings and we will support our staff, organisation and membership to grow and mature.

Actions:

- Embed a business model that is diversified, cost efficient and forward thinking
- Leverage our collective data sources to optimise our solutions and future investments
- Enhance our humanitarian, social, and environmental impacts through our engagements and networks
- Attract and retain the best talent with a workplace that supports our strategic direction and values
- Grow our membership base, satisfaction and recognition



Ulladulla Sea Pool, NSW



Ensuring Long-Term Growth and Prosperity

Royal Life Saving is committed to ensuring long-term growth and prosperity—an essential priority for sustained success and community impact. By cultivating a team of dedicated professionals, we are well-positioned to meet future challenges and opportunities. Central to our strategy is the diversification of traditional programs and services to ensure ongoing relevance and financial stability in a rapidly changing environment.

As community needs evolve, so must our agenda. The increased use of inland waterways for aquatic recreation, for example, reflects broader lifestyle shifts that require tailored responses in education, safety, and infrastructure planning.

While maintaining financial responsibility, we remain deeply focused on our humanitarian and social purpose. As leaders in the sector, we have a responsibility to ensure that disadvantaged communities are not left behind. Over the past 12 months, one of our core strengths has been our ability to remain fiscally responsible without compromising access—choosing not to increase service fees, despite facing rising supplier, utility, and insurance costs. This decision reflects our understanding of the financial pressures many families and communities continue to face.

Balancing fiscal prudence with our social mission underscores our commitment to delivering life-saving programs and support where they are most needed. The future is promising, and our organisation is prepared to respond with innovation, agility, and compassion—ensuring Royal Life Saving remains a trusted and vital force in promoting water safety and community wellbeing across the country.

SHOWCASE

Coming Soon: Drowning Prevention Australia

A New Era of Leadership in Aquatic Risk Management

Royal Life Saving NSW is proud to announce the establishment of its new subsidiary: RLS Drowning Prevention Australia.

This strategic initiative reflects our unwavering commitment to remain at the forefront of aquatic safety, risk management, and service excellence. The newly registered entity will lead the delivery of high-quality, ISO-certified risk management solutions across public swimming pools and inland waterways—supporting the creation of safer aquatic environments for communities across New South Wales and beyond.

A Vision for Sector Leadership

The need for expert aquatic risk management has never been greater. Communities across Australia are increasingly seeking safe, inclusive, and innovative ways to engage with local aquatic environments, particularly in inland and regional areas.

By restructuring our services under a dedicated subsidiary model, Royal Life Saving NSW is strategically positioned to:

- Strengthen partnerships with aquatic operators and public agencies
- Enhance credibility through ISO certification and sector alignment
- Expand our reach across pools, natural water spaces, and waterway activations
- Support the long-term sustainability of the aquatic sector

RLS Drowning Prevention Australia represents a major step forward in our ability to deliver best-in-class safety solutions, reinforcing our status as the trusted leader in aquatic risk management.

Core Risk Management Services

RLS Drowning Prevention Australia will offer a comprehensive suite of services focused on the operational safety of aquatic facilities and natural water environments.

1. Risk Assessments

Detailed site-based risk assessments to identify potential hazards and implement mitigation strategies tailored to each aquatic setting.

2. Safety Audits

Ongoing compliance audits aligned with the Guidelines for Safe Pool Operation (GSPO) and relevant national standards.

3. Specialised Training

Tailored training for aquatic staff, operators, and managers, with a focus on risk mitigation, incident response, and WHS responsibilities.

4. Consulting Services

Expert consultation in the design, refurbishment, and operational optimisation of aquatic facilities, including advice on facility safety and water quality.

5. Insurance Partnerships

Development of sector-specific risk tools and support services in collaboration with insurance and underwriting agencies, promoting improved risk ratings and tailored coverage options.

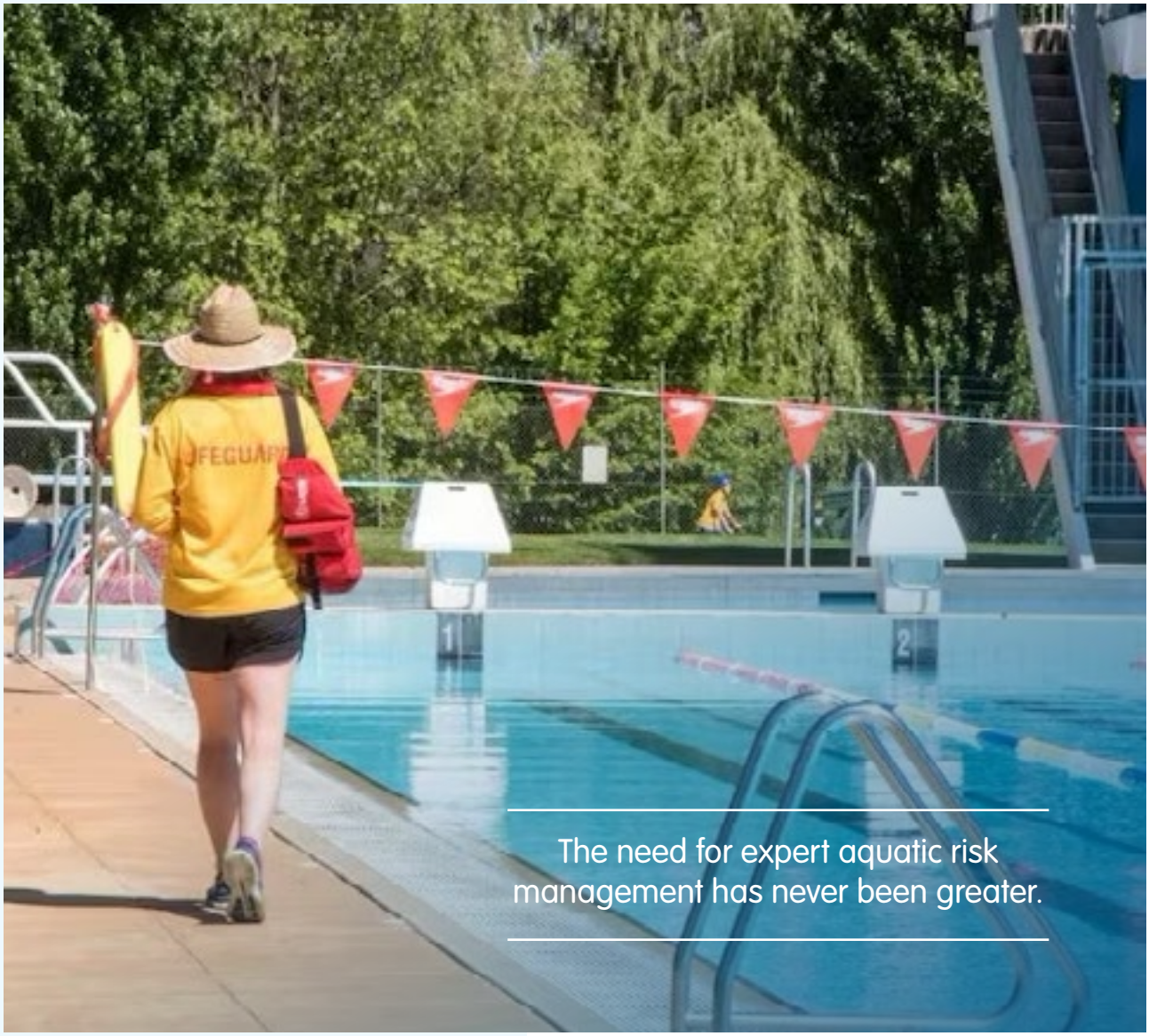
6. Inland Waterway Activation

Delivery of strategic risk solutions to activate inland water spaces—helping local councils and communities transform underutilised waterways into safe, vibrant recreational assets.

Strengthening the Future of Water Safety

With the launch of RLS Drowning Prevention Australia, Royal Life Saving NSW is reaffirming its leadership role in aquatic safety. By combining sector expertise, community insight, and formal risk frameworks, this new subsidiary will help shape safer aquatic futures across NSW—ensuring that water is a source of joy, not tragedy.

Stay tuned for more as RLS Drowning Prevention Australia formally launches in the year ahead.





Harnessing Data to Drive Strategic Investment and Solutions

At Royal Life Saving, we recognise the critical importance of leveraging our collective data sources to inform decisions, optimise our solutions, and shape future investments. Our ability to create meaningful change is underpinned by robust evidence and high-quality analysis, ensuring that our actions are both impactful and sustainable.

Our research program is overseen by a dedicated team of experienced researchers and academic partners who are committed to rigorous analysis and methodological excellence. These professionals ensure that every report we produce is grounded in the best available evidence and provides actionable insights to guide our efforts.

The outcomes of our research reports play a central role in shaping our strategy, helping us to identify the most effective interventions to prevent both fatal and non-fatal drownings. They also support Royal Life Saving in addressing broader sectoral challenges—including workforce development, infrastructure planning, and demographic trends that influence risk and service demand.

By continuously collecting, analysing, and applying data, we strengthen our ability to respond to emerging issues, evaluate our progress, and ensure our investments deliver the greatest possible benefit to the communities we serve. This evidence-led approach is essential to our mission to create safer aquatic environments for all.

SHOWCASE

Research Report

From Primary to High School: A Generational Decline in Swimming Skills Puts Lives at Risk

New national research from Royal Life Saving reveals an alarming generational decline in children's swimming and lifesaving skills. The findings raise serious concerns for youth safety, particularly as drowning risk surges during adolescence and early adulthood.

The report's release follows a devastating summer where 104 Australians lost their lives to drowning — up 5% from last summer and 14% above the five-year average. A lack of swimming competence remains a key contributing factor.

Key Findings at a Glance

> Primary-aged students falling short: Teachers estimate that 48% of Year 6 students cannot swim 50 metres and tread water for two minutes — the National Swimming and Water Safety Benchmark.

  Parents echo this concern, with 46% confirming their children do not meet this standard.

> No improvement in high school: An estimated 39% of Year 10 students still fail to meet the Year 6 benchmark — showing minimal progress in aquatic skills during critical adolescent years.

> Lifesaving skills are dangerously weak: Teachers estimate that 84% of 15–16-year-olds cannot swim 400 metres and tread water for five minutes — the benchmark expected by age 17.

These statistics paint a concerning picture of a generation growing up without essential water survival skills, further compounded by missed opportunities during the pandemic.

Barriers to Access and Participation

> 31% of schools do not offer swimming or water safety programs, citing cost, staffing shortages, and time constraints as key barriers.

> Parents bear the burden, but 1 in 10 children aged 5–14 have never attended swimming lessons, with children from low socio-economic, regional, and multicultural backgrounds most impacted.

> While 59% of children start lessons before age 3, most stop by age 7–9 — often before acquiring vital survival skills.

Urgent Action Needed

As children transition to teens and young adults, drowning risk increases ten-fold between the ages of 10 and 20. This trend highlights the urgent need to intervene during the middle years, especially for children who haven't yet learned to swim 50 metres.

Royal Life Saving Calls for a National Response

To ensure every child has access to lifesaving water safety education, Royal Life Saving advocates four key measures:

1. Increase funding for existing school and vacation-based swimming and water safety programs
2. Expand grants to support children most vulnerable to drowning — including those from refugee, migrant, regional, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
3. Introduce or enhance lifesaving programs in high schools, targeting adolescents with poor swimming ability
4. Invest in public infrastructure, including more swimming pools and accessible aquatic venues in underserved regions

A Shared Responsibility

Addressing this decline requires the combined efforts of governments, schools, communities, and aquatic organisations. Every child deserves the opportunity to develop the skills that can save their life — and the lives of others.

SHOWCASE

Research

Future Activations: A Unified Approach to Saving Lives

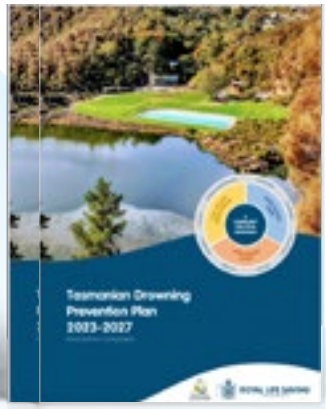
Royal Life Saving Tasmania remains resolute in its commitment to reduce fatal and non-fatal drownings across the state. As identified through historical data, coronial insights, and community consultation, Tasmania faces a unique set of drowning risks—particularly among males aged 20 to 65—across a range of inland and coastal environments.

The **Tasmanian Drowning Prevention Plan**, developed in partnership with government, aquatic, health, and community sectors, outlines a shared roadmap for action. By leveraging collective knowledge, expertise, and resources, we aim to implement tailored, data-driven interventions that directly respond to the most at-risk demographics.

Looking ahead, our focus will include:

- Enhancing public awareness and targeted safety messaging;
- Promoting consistent and correct use of lifejackets and PPE;
- Improving access to survival and swimming skills in regional and high-risk areas;
- Supporting vulnerable groups, including those with medical conditions and limited mobility.

These future activations are not just strategic—they are urgent. Only by working together can we meaningfully reduce drownings and build a safer Tasmania for all.



Enhancing Our Humanitarian, Social, and Environmental Impact

At Royal Life Saving, our mission extends far beyond the delivery of water safety education and drowning prevention. We are deeply committed to enhancing the humanitarian, social, and environmental impact of our work through every engagement, partnership, and community network we foster.

Our efforts are grounded in the belief that every individual—regardless of age, ability, background, or location—has the right to be safe around water. This commitment drives our targeted outreach to vulnerable communities, including children in out-of-home care, regional and remote populations, culturally and linguistically diverse groups, and older Australians. Through these actions, we are contributing to a more inclusive and equitable society.

In parallel, we are integrating environmental awareness and sustainability into our programs and services—recognising that healthy aquatic ecosystems are essential for safe recreational access, public wellbeing, and intergenerational resilience. By embedding sustainable practices and advocating for responsible use of our natural waterways, we ensure our impact benefits both people and the planet.

Through strong partnerships with governments, local communities, and industry stakeholders, Royal Life Saving is proud to be a leader in creating positive, lasting change. Our work will continue to evolve to meet the challenges ahead—always guided by our humanitarian purpose, our commitment to social good, and our responsibility to preserve and protect the environments in which we live, work, and play.

SHOWCASE

World Drowning Prevention Day – 25 July 2024

On Thursday 25 July, Royal Life Saving joined the World Health Organization (WHO) in observing the United Nations' **World Drowning Prevention Day**—a day of reflection, advocacy, and action.

This global day of awareness serves as a poignant reminder that "anyone can drown, but no one should." Drowning is often sudden, silent, and devastating. It can happen in a matter of seconds, often without warning and too frequently without witness.

Each year, nearly 250,000 people around the world lose their lives to drowning, including more than 82,000 children aged 1 to 14 years. In Australia, hundreds of families experience the heartbreaking loss of loved ones due to drowning—losses that are preventable with greater awareness and action.

This year's message from the WHO was simple but powerful: Seconds Save Lives. In many cases, what leads to drowning unfolds in just moments—but so too can the lifesaving interventions that prevent it.

Royal Life Saving encouraged communities across Australia to take part by "going blue" and sharing key resources, personal stories, and safety messages. Our national campaign called on all Australians to take simple, practical steps to prevent drowning:

- Enrol in swimming and water safety lessons
- Actively supervise children around water
- Check and maintain pool fences and gates
- Avoid alcohol and drugs near water
- Wear a lifejacket when boating or fishing
- Know the water conditions before entering
- Learn CPR and emergency response
- Become a swim teacher or lifeguard

Every action—no matter how small—can make a difference.



This World Drowning Prevention Day, we remembered those we have lost and recommitted to a safer future. Because while drowning can happen in seconds, those same seconds can also save a life.

Landmarks across Tasmania supported World Drowning Prevention Day by turning blue, including Wrest Point Hotel, Hobart Waterfront, Tasman Bridge, Cardinal Lights (Mawson Place), Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre, Elizabeth Mall, Franklin Square Foundation, the Rose Garden Bridge.

SHOWCASE

Out of Home Care – Learn to Swim Program

The *Active Tasmania*-funded "Out of Home Care – Learn to Swim" program, delivered by Royal Life Saving Tasmania, has successfully supported 180 young Tasmanians during the 2024–2025 financial year.

Now in its sixth year of State Government funding, the program delivers weekly swimming and water safety lessons to children and young people aged from 6 months to 21 years across all regions of Tasmania, spanning 15 participating swim schools. The initiative specifically targets children in out-of-home care, helping to build confidence, increase swimming ability, and improve water safety awareness.

The program's impact has been profound. Many participants have developed the skills and confidence to engage in school swimming programs and carnivals alongside their peers. The program also creates valuable engagement opportunities for caregivers, enabling them to have meaningful conversations about water safety and better understand each child's swimming capabilities.

In addition to directly supporting children, the program has addressed critical workforce needs by facilitating the training of 10 new Swimming and Water Safety Teachers across Tasmania. This effort has been essential in mitigating the instructor shortages brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuring aquatic facilities can continue delivering essential services.

The program is a vital contributor to drowning prevention and community safety, providing vulnerable young Tasmanians with life-saving skills and fostering inclusive participation in aquatic activities.



Attracting and Retaining Talent through Leadership and Workforce Development

Royal Life Saving is committed to attracting and retaining the best talent across the aquatic industry by investing in people who are passionate about safety, education, and community impact. Through our leadership development initiatives, we are working to build a capable, confident, and empowered workforce that supports and enhances the culture of aquatic facilities and drives meaningful activation across our sector.

We recognise that the strength of the aquatic industry lies in its people. That's why we deliver targeted programs that foster leadership, promote best practice, and build positive workplace cultures that inspire teams to thrive. These initiatives not only uplift individuals but also contribute to safer, more inclusive, and more engaging aquatic environments across the country.

Within our own organisation, Royal Life Saving upholds a strong commitment to the personal and professional development of our employees. We provide genuine pathways for growth and ensure our workplace culture reflects our strategic direction and core values. By offering a supportive and purpose-driven environment, we empower staff to contribute meaningfully, grow in their roles, and advance in their careers.

This dual commitment—to industry and internal development—ensures we continue to lead with integrity, innovate with confidence, and cultivate a high-performing workforce capable of making a lasting difference in the communities we serve.

SHOWCASE

Building Strong Leaders in Aquatics

Empowering the Next Generation of Aquatic Sector Professionals

Over the past two and a half years, Royal Life Saving NSW has proudly invested in the development of leadership capability within the aquatic sector. Since the launch of our leadership training program in June 2022, we have successfully delivered five intensive courses, supporting 54 individuals in building the skills, confidence, and strategic mindset required to lead in dynamic aquatic environments.

These programs bring together participants from diverse professional and personal backgrounds — from frontline aquatic staff and emerging supervisors to Royal Life Saving personnel and community partners. Most recently, 10 participants, including four Royal Life Saving team members, completed one of our latest leadership development courses.

Transformative Learning and Practical Tools

Our tailored programs focus on real-world leadership skills, offering a mix of structured learning, peer exchange, and reflective practice. Feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive, with many citing lasting benefits for both their professional and personal growth.

Key takeaways shared by participants included:

- "Learning about the DISC profiling system and how I can better manage myself and others. It was great learning from both the facilitator and peers. All the activities were useful and practical."
- "Help in developing new management strategies."
- "Understanding management decisions and how organisational structures work."

Participants also acknowledged the importance of positive reinforcement, linking vision and values to motivation, and the balance between management and leadership.

Broader Reflections from Graduates

Additional reflections from recent graduates highlight the far-reaching impact of the program:

- "Goal planning and long-term strategy development."
- "Taking the time to achieve goals and seeing the bigger picture."
- "Using emotional intelligence (EQ) to balance work and family life."
- "Responding to difficult clients or stakeholders with confidence."

Investing in People, Shaping the Sector

Royal Life Saving NSW believes that strong leadership is key to sector sustainability, workforce retention, and community impact. Through continued investment in professional development, we aim to build a future-ready workforce capable of managing risk, leading teams, and delivering safe, inclusive aquatic services across New South Wales and beyond.

As we look ahead, our leadership programs will continue to evolve — integrating best practice approaches, sector-specific insights, and emerging challenges — to ensure we are not only growing leaders, but shaping changemakers in aquatic safety and community wellbeing.

SHOWCASE

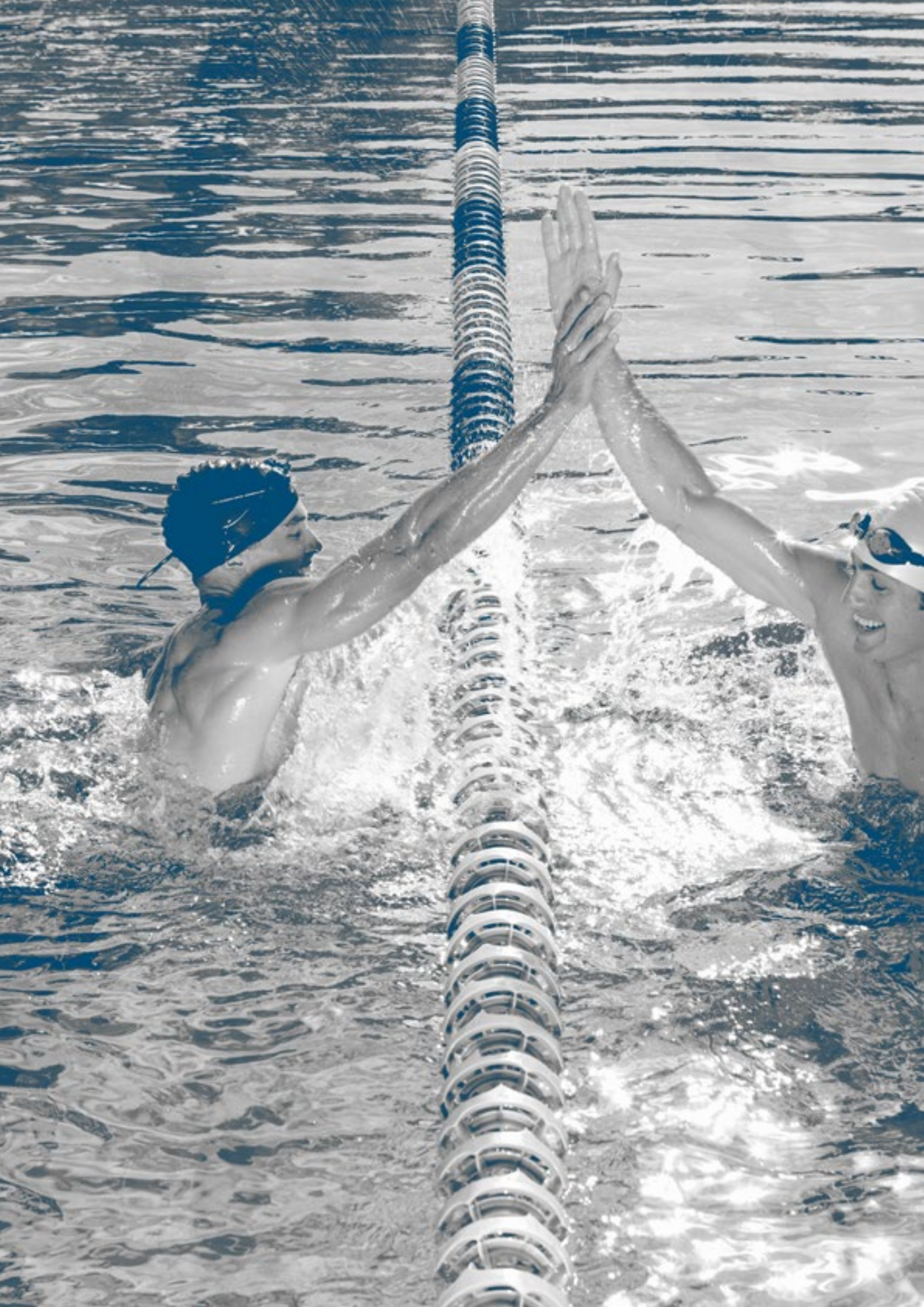
Promoting Mentally Healthy Workplaces through Personal Development Programs

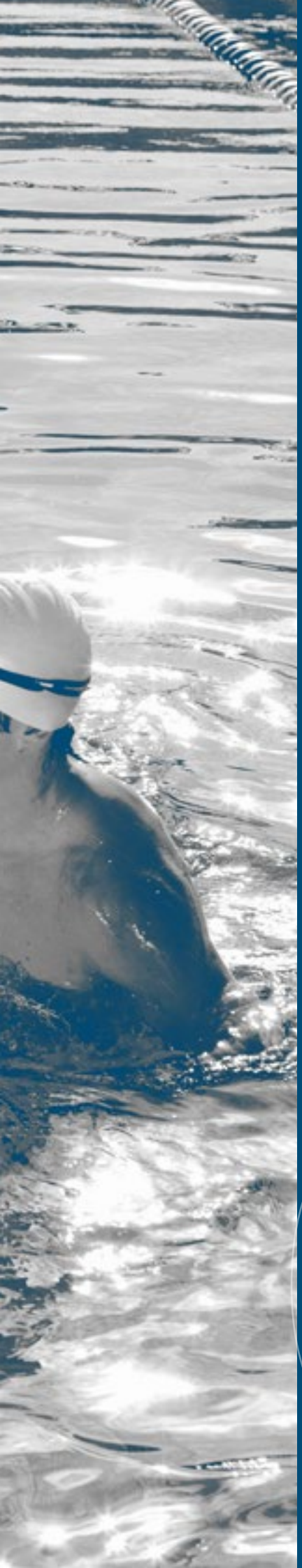
Royal Life Saving recognises that healthy workplaces benefit everyone—our people, our culture, and our communities. As part of our commitment to personal and professional development, we support initiatives that promote mental health and wellbeing in the workplace, acknowledging that mental wellness is essential for individual fulfilment and organisational success.

One such initiative is our **Mentally Healthy Workplaces Program,** which reinforces the critical role that employment plays in our overall wellbeing. With many of us spending a third of our adult lives at work, our jobs can be a vital source of purpose, connection, and achievement. However, we also understand that workplace stressors—whether operational, organisational, or interpersonal—can elevate the risk of mental health issues.

Through awareness training, access to support resources, and a culture of psychological safety, we equip our employees and industry partners with the tools to recognise and respond to mental health challenges. This program not only meets our legal obligations as an employer but aligns with our values—ensuring that our teams are safe, supported, and empowered to thrive.

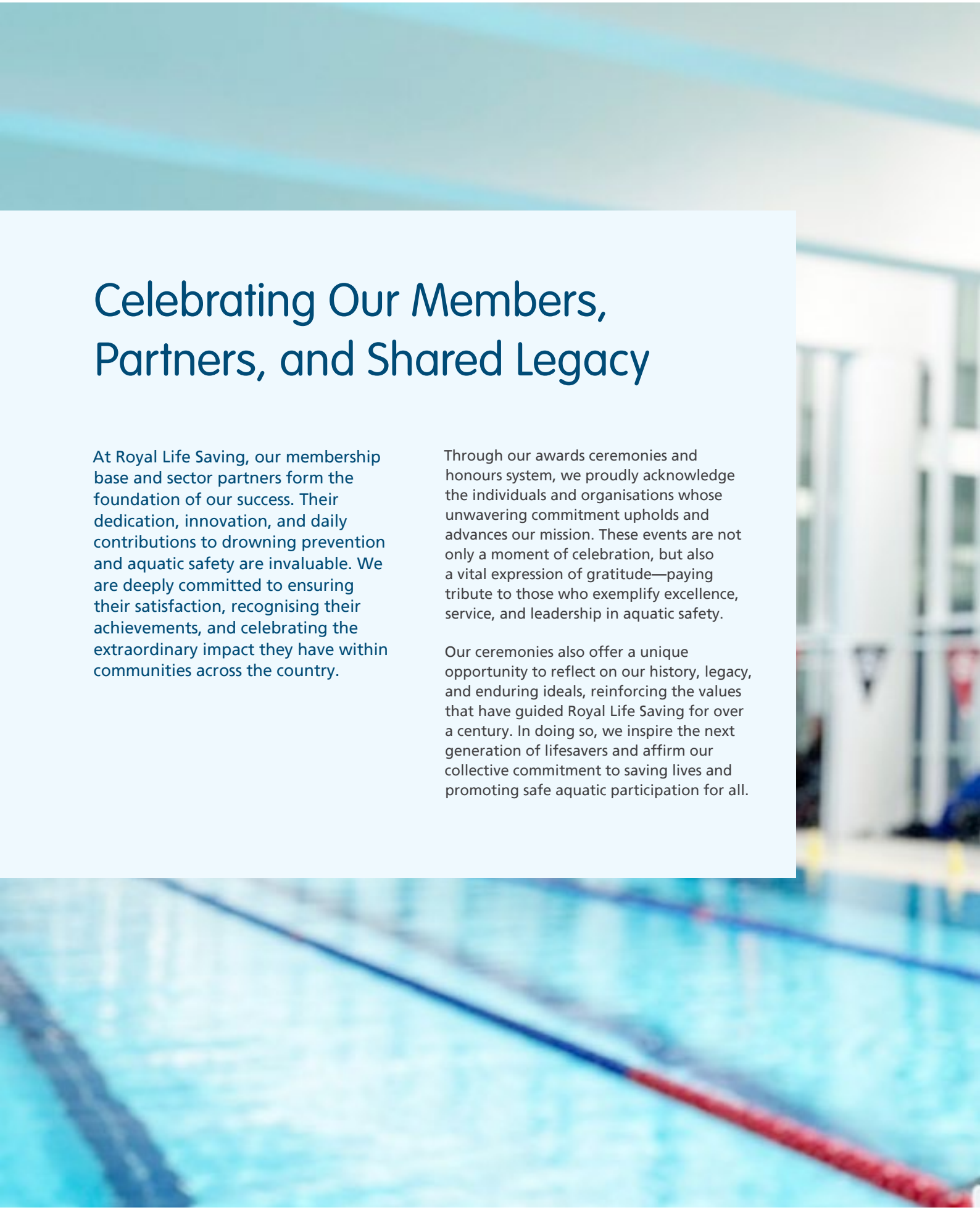
By fostering mentally healthy environments, Royal Life Saving continues to champion a workplace culture that values wellbeing, promotes resilience, and enhances both individual and organisational performance.





OUR CELEBRATIONS

03



Celebrating Our Members, Partners, and Shared Legacy

At Royal Life Saving, our membership base and sector partners form the foundation of our success. Their dedication, innovation, and daily contributions to drowning prevention and aquatic safety are invaluable. We are deeply committed to ensuring their satisfaction, recognising their achievements, and celebrating the extraordinary impact they have within communities across the country.

Through our awards ceremonies and honours system, we proudly acknowledge the individuals and organisations whose unwavering commitment upholds and advances our mission. These events are not only a moment of celebration, but also a vital expression of gratitude—paying tribute to those who exemplify excellence, service, and leadership in aquatic safety.

Our ceremonies also offer a unique opportunity to reflect on our history, legacy, and enduring ideals, reinforcing the values that have guided Royal Life Saving for over a century. In doing so, we inspire the next generation of lifesavers and affirm our collective commitment to saving lives and promoting safe aquatic participation for all.


ENGINE
MSN







SHOWCASE

The AQUAS 2025

Celebrating Excellence in the Aquatic Industry

On Thursday, May 1st, the aquatic community gathered in celebration at the elegant Le Montage, Sydney, for The AQUAS 2025 Awards Gala, proudly hosted by Royal Life Saving NSW.

With over 250 guests in attendance—including finalists, sponsors, dignitaries, and special guests—the evening was a powerful showcase of the passion, innovation, and dedication driving excellence across the aquatic sector.

A Night of Reflection, Recognition and Celebration

The night provided an opportunity to celebrate 130 Summers of Saving Lives and the significant achievements made by individuals and organisations. With a record 111 nominations and 66 finalists across 14 categories, The AQUAS 2025 highlighted the strength and diversity of contribution across the industry. Guests were treated to an inspiring program of awards presentations, dinner, and entertainment, including a highlight Q&A with Olympic diver and water safety advocate Sam Fricker.

A Night to Remember

As the formalities drew to a close, the celebration continued with music, dancing, and shared memories captured in the ever-popular photo booth — a fitting conclusion to a night that honoured the heart, skill, and innovation that drives the aquatic sector forward.

Congratulations to all finalists and winners — you represent the very best of our industry, and your achievements continue to inspire and shape the future of water safety in Australia.

Award Winners – The AQUAS 2025

Competitor of the Year
(sponsored by Badge of Honour)

Winner: Brayden Woodford

Recognised for his outstanding achievements in national and international lifesaving sport.

Outstanding Contributions to Lifesaving Sport
(sponsored by Sport NSW)

Winner: Rozlynn Grey OAM

Honoured for over 60 years of service, leadership, and mentoring in lifesaving sport.

Pool Lifeguard of the Year
(sponsored by Laerdal)

Winner: Melissa Sweeney

Celebrated for excellence in safety leadership and incident response.

Swim Teacher of the Year
(sponsored by Australian Training Company)

Winner: Sarah Harwood

Known for her inclusive approach and positive impact on young swimmers.

Poolie of the Year
(sponsored by Trisley's Hydraulic Services)

Winner: Chad McCamley

Recognised for elevating operations and safety across community aquatic centres.

Industry Leader of the Year
(sponsored by Vorgee)

Winner: Simon Duck

Awarded for visionary leadership and commitment to inclusive aquatic spaces.

Supplier of the Year
(sponsored by R&D Technical Services)

Winner: Para Mobility

Celebrated for pioneering accessibility solutions for aquatic centres nationwide.

Aquatic Facility of the Year
(sponsored by Statewide Mutual)

Winner: Parramatta Aquatic Centre

Recognised for setting new standards in design, innovation, and access.

Excellence in Cultural Diversity
(sponsored by Primary Communications)

Winner: A Splash of Colour Swimming – Ennia Jones

Awarded for empowering CALD communities through culturally sensitive water safety education.

Excellence in Access and Inclusion
(sponsored by Para Mobility)

Winner: Macquarie University Sport and Aquatic Centre

Acknowledged for creating an inclusive, welcoming environment for all.

Excellence in Training and Education
(sponsored by International Quadratics)

Winner: Cameron McFarlane

Awarded for impactful CPR and water safety training, both nationally and internationally.

Excellence in Innovation
(sponsored by Fluidra Commercial)

Winner: Inverell Aquatic Centre

Celebrated for leading innovation in regional facility design and community activation.

Excellence in Drowning Prevention
(sponsored by Specialised Engineering Services)

Winner: Muswellbrook High School

Honoured for a 30-year commitment to lifesaving education and leadership.

President's Award
(sponsored by aXcelerate)

Winner: Belgravia Leisure

Recognised for industry-wide leadership in safety, inclusion, and operational excellence.

SHOWCASE

The 2025 Royal Life Saving NSW Commendations Ceremony

Honouring Courage, Compassion, and Community Spirit

On 13 February 2025, the grounds of Government House, Sydney provided a fitting backdrop for a deeply moving occasion—the Royal Life Saving NSW Commendations Ceremony.

In the esteemed presence of Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales and Patron of Royal Life Saving NSW, 16 extraordinary individuals were recognised for their courage, composure, and decisive actions during life-threatening emergencies.

This annual ceremony honours both professionals and everyday Australians—individuals whose instinct and bravery have saved lives and strengthened the fabric of their communities.

Stories of Courage and Bravery

Each award recipient displayed remarkable presence of mind in a moment of crisis. Their stories are a testament to the enduring value of lifesaving training and community spirit.



Margaret Mitchell & Wayne Cannon

In Gerringong, on 5 February 2022, a five-week-old baby was found unresponsive and bleeding. Margaret Mitchell, a retired paediatric nurse, and Wayne Cannon, an off-duty Critical Care Paramedic, responded immediately, performing CPR and managing the baby's airway until paramedics arrived. Their swift intervention saved the child's life.

Jacob Hills

On Easter Monday 2024, 13-year-old Jacob Hills became a hero at Waves Fitness & Aquatic Centre after rescuing an unresponsive five-year-old boy from the pool. Jacob's alertness and quick action in notifying lifeguards played a vital role in the child's survival. He received a High Commendation for his bravery.

James Milliss

While watching a local cricket match on 14 January 2024, retired paramedic James Milliss sprang into action when a player collapsed. Administering CPR and operating an AED, he kept the man alive until emergency services arrived.

Kimberly Pryke

On 4 August 2024, Learn to Swim instructor Kimberly Pryke responded to a medical emergency near the Nepean River. She provided CPR until paramedics arrived, stabilising the individual and demonstrating the critical value of first aid training.

Peter Finch and Community Rescuers

Tragically, Peter Finch lost his life on 1 October 2021 while saving his four-year-old son after their kayak capsized on Gwandalan Lake. His heroic act was supported by a coordinated community rescue led by Brett Langford, Peter Davies, Nikki Rowe, Wendy Warren, and Richard Warren, whose bravery ensured the boy's survival.

Senior Constable Brandon Danby

Senior Constable Danby was honoured for his swift, selfless response to a serious car crash on the M1 Pacific Highway, where he provided immediate assistance under dangerous weather conditions, safeguarding victims until emergency crews arrived.

Honouring Bravery and Community Spirit

In her address, **Her Excellency Margaret Beazley** commended the award recipients:

> "Today, we honour individuals who embody the pinnacle of human compassion and courage. Their actions remind us of the profound impact that preparedness, bravery, and empathy can have on our communities."

Royal Life Saving NSW President Mr. Jim Whiteside also paid tribute:

> "In our 131st year, we remain steadfast in our commitment to empowering communities with lifesaving skills. These stories exemplify our vision of a safer aquatic culture, built on preparedness and the willingness to act."

Celebrating Everyday Heroes

The 2025 Commendations Ceremony was a powerful reminder that lifesaving is not just a skill — it is a mindset. Whether through training, instinct, or an unshakable will to help, these individuals made the ultimate difference when it mattered most.

Royal Life Saving NSW extends its deepest appreciation to each recipient. Their actions inspire us all to stay prepared, stay aware, and stand ready to act — because every second counts.



Acknowledging – Ms Francis Simpson Lee for her outstanding dedication to water safety. A true pioneer and ambassador, Ms Simpson Lee has played a vital role in developing aquatic skills across diverse communities. In recognition of her exceptional service and lifelong commitment, she was awarded the prestigious Commonwealth Bar to the Service Cross.

Thank You – Michael (Mick) Dasey & Sandy Hones

This year, we bid farewell to two of our most dedicated and long-serving team members—Mick Dasey and Sandy Hones—who have both recently entered retirement.

With 21 years of exceptional service, Mick served as our Riverina Regional Manager, where he played a vital role in strengthening water safety education and training across vast and diverse communities. From the Snowy Mountains to Wentworth and all the way to Broken Hill, Mick travelled hundreds of thousands of kilometres, bringing his deep knowledge, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to every school, pool, council, and community he engaged. His impact has been profound, helping build a more robust and skilled aquatic and education sector throughout the region.

With 22 years of loyal service, Sandy was a cornerstone of our operations team. Working across accounts, dispatch, logistics, and customer service, Sandy ensured that every product, program, and interaction upheld the standards of excellence our organisation is known for. Her attention to detail and tireless work ethic made her a trusted and valued presence for staff, clients, and partners alike.

We extend our sincere gratitude to both Mick and Sandy for their remarkable contributions to Royal Life Saving NSW. Their legacy will remain embedded in the culture and success of our organisation. We wish them both a retirement filled with health, happiness, and well-deserved adventure.

Thank you, Mick and Sandy.





Lake Canobolas, Orange NSW



Honours

Royal Life Saving Honours

Royal Life Saving deeply appreciates and acknowledges the tireless efforts and invaluable contributions of the numerous individuals, organisations, and entities who dedicate themselves to promoting the ideals of water safety and lifesaving. These invaluable partners share our mission, working relentlessly in the face of challenges and extending their support in various capacities, be it through financial aid, provision of resources, volunteering, or sharing expertise.

Year after year, their efforts play a crucial role in helping us accomplish our objectives, reach out to more communities, and create a safer and more inclusive aquatic environment for all. Their commitment goes beyond simple contributions; they are the lifeblood of our cause, shaping our journey and reinforcing our mission.

In recognition of their outstanding contributions and relentless pursuit of our shared objectives, we honour them through our Royal Life Saving Honours System. This system is designed to acknowledge and celebrate their significant impact and the difference they make in the lives of countless people.

The honour is not merely a token of appreciation, but a testament to their dedication and commitment to our cause. By recognising their efforts, we hope to inspire others to join us in our mission and further the reach of our lifesaving work. We remain forever grateful to our honourees for their unwavering support and shared vision of a safe and engaging aquatic environment for all.

New South Wales Honours

Certificate of Thanks

John Kavanagh
Yvonne Pearce
Bree Pryce
Paul Rumens

Associate

Megan Carson
Ethan Garland
Angela Girard
Rochelle Joyce
Leonie MacGregor
Ian MacGregor
Susan Moore
Margaret Sanders
Maria Raftery
Bec Rumens
Kathryn Schultz
Bradley Townsend
Syie Mei Thai

Distinguished Service

Alison Buckly
Mark Chappell
Donna Fishburn
Kimberley Kelly
Paige Peterson
Delwyn Smidt

Long Service Star

Andrew Bowden
Mavi Giacomello
Bruce Horlyck
Mike Howarth
Gary Johnson
Andrew Pearce
Deborah Turner

Sir Walter Leonard Memorial Trophy

Award Recipient: Maximillian Pearce

For achievement in life saving by a person with a disability or working with people with a disability.

Russel Crane Cup

Award Recipient: Nadine Davies – Glenwood High School

For outstanding service in promoting the Society in the community during the previous year

John Stackpoole Memorial Trophy

Award Recipient: Penny Hodgers

For outstanding service by an individual in the sport of lifesaving.

NSW President's Award

Award Recipient: Belgravia Leisure

To recognise the exceptional service or contributions of organisations, clubs, schools in NSW.

New South Wales Staff

Australian Service Order

5 Years' Service

Alice Barrett
Harold Brissenden
Kiane Chapman
Christine Fassolis
Alicia Heffer
Rhiarne Hunter
Kristy De Lore
Bernadette Neal
Andrew Nelson
Deborah Quilliam
Helen Ratcliffe
Simone Waters
Taysha Wilson

Long Service Order

10 Years' Service

Gus Bormann
Andrew Brayshaw
Tanya Brunckhorst
Wayne Gallagher
Stephen Gollan
Wesley Hamilton
Tod Healey
Catherine Lowe
Nina Nyitrai
Kim Rayner
Jackie Rousseau
Melissa Ryan
Owen Schmid
Tanya Schmid
Murray Scoble
Tammy-Ann Taylor
Paul Tiernan
Phillip Wicks
Craig Williams

Meritorious Service Order

15 Years' Service

Mark Donaldson
Lauren Reynolds
Carly Ryan

Royal Life Saving New South Wales

Life Governors

K. Abernethy
H. Bamford
G. Bassingthwaighte
S. Bidner
W. Blakeney
R. Burgoyne
B. Clifton
B. Colquhoun
R. Crane
T. Cross
J. Cummine
B. Deitz
K. Draper
G. Duncan
J. Eyles
J. Fowler
V. Frost
E. Fry
C. Heckenberg
F. Henry
A. Hilliard
P. Hunter
R. Jiear
P. Joske
D. Knox
K. Lofts
P. Marquet
M. McCann
W. McKell
R. McLennan
D. Parsons
J. Parsons
H. Prior
R. Crane
N. Rose
W. Scott
A. Stephens
H. Stoyles
G. Turnbull
W. Twigg
E. Vass
R. Vass

Presidents

1907/08	Colonel Reuter E Roth
1929/30 to 1936/37	Sir Kelso King
1937/38 to 1940/41	Mr. C W Heyde
1951/52	Mr. Stuart Thorpe
1952/53 to 1954/55	His Honour Judge J. Harvey Prior
1955/56 to 1957/58	Mr. P E Joske
1958/59 to 1970/71	His Honour Judge J. Harvey Prior
1971/72 to 1979/80	Sir P.E. Joske
1980/81 to 1982/83	Sir Walter Leonard
1983/84 to 1993/94	Sir Eric McClintock
1993/94 to 2007/08	Mr. Clive Austin
2008/09 to 2011/12	Mr. Peter Cronin
2012/13 to present	Mr. James Whiteside

Life Members

K. Abernethy
N. Adams
H. Aitken
P. Allan
E. Arnold
R. Arnold
C. Austin
B.Bowen
B.Deitz
C. Baglin
H. Bamford
D. Banks
J. Barden
P. Barrie
G. Bassingthwaighte
D. Beaupeurt
D. Bennetts
R. Beresford
M. Bergin
S. Bidner
C. Black
W. Blakeney
M. Booby
J. Breakspear
T. Brenton
F. Brett
F. Brett
R. Brettell
J. Brooks
A. Brown
D. Brown
G. Bryant
L. Buchanan
R. Burgoyne
M. Burn
L. Burwell
R. Byrnes
G. Campbell
K. Carley
J. Carney
A. Castleman
J. Chalmers
N. Chelman
C. Claggett
G. Clarke
B. Clifton
J. Coleman
J. Collier
Jill Collier
B. Colquhoun
P. Cousins
H. Cremmer
P. Cronin
T. Cross
M. Cullen
J. Cummine
A. Denny
B. Dixon
N. Dixon
J. Dooley
P. Dooley
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F. Dunnicliffe
D. Dunstan
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J. Eyles
L. Fall
R. Faraday
B. Farlow
R. Firkin
M. Fitzsimmons
P. Forbutt
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J. Fowler
W. Fowler
B. Frame
A. Fraser
V. Frost
E. Fry
D. Gallaway
H. Gillard
M. Goodman
A. Gorst
G. Grey
R. Grey
C. Griffiths
J. Grimsley
D. Gross
J. Hague
W. Harries
N. Harrison
J. Hawe
K. Hawthorne
N. Hayton
C. Heckenberg
J. Henderson
F. Henry
A. Hilliard
B. Hocker
D. Hofman
J. Holme
C. Hopkins
W. Howitt
W. Humphries
G. J. Vesperman
M. Jarrett
W. Jarvesson
J. Jenkins
R. Jiear
D. Johannes
D. Jones
R. Judge
G. Keifer
F. Kelly
D. Kilpatrick
L-D. Kinscher
K. Laffey
C. Lauder
F. Leaney
W. Leonard
D. Lindsay
K. Lofts
W. London
J. Manning
P. Marquet
S. Martin
M. Matheson
A. McClure
J. McCoy
J. McDonald
S. McDonell
E. McGrath
C. McKenzie
N. McKnight
J. McLean
B. McLennan
R. McLennan
R. McQueen
P. Midson
J. Misson
D. Mitchell
T. Monckton
J. Moss
P. Neenan
I. Newley
C. Ninness
H. Notley
K. O'Connor
W. Parker
D. Parsons
J. Parsons
J. Pascoe
H. Paull
J. Perry
C. Phillips
B. Prideaux
K. Prien
H. Prior
L. Purcell
F. Ramsay
L. Randall
E. Redfern
L. Reid
D. Richardson
W. Riding
H. Rose
G. Samanc
F. Sandon
F. Saunders
W. Scott
F. Simpson-Lee
J. Slade
M. Slade
E. Smiles
R. Smith
J. Spencer
R. Stacey
N. Stanley
P. Stanley
A. Stephens
P. Stephens
C. Stewart
J. Stewart
N. Stuart
J. Teagle
D. Thompson
A. Tonkin
B. Trevenar
G. Turnbull
W. Twigg
E. Vass
R. Vass
G. Vesperman
B. Vines
A. Vockler
J. Waterer
B. Weir
J. Whitebrook
P. Wiebe
M. Williams
H. Woodley
M. Wylie

ACT Commonwealth Honours

Service Medal

The Hon. Terrance John Higgins AO QC
Mr. Kenneth Aplin
Mr. Peter Granleese
Mr. Kevin Graham
Mr. Lyal Holley
Mr. Tony Bandle
Mr. Greg Bowler
Mr. Harold James Hird OAM

Australian Honours

Fellow of the Royal Life Saving Society – Australia

The Hon. Terrance John Higgins AO QC
Mr. Geoff McGibbon
Mr. Kevin Graham
Mr. Ian Cocks
Mr. Anthony Bandall
Mr. Peter Granleese

Service Order of the Royal Life Saving Society – Australia

Mrs. Christine McGibbon
Mrs. Diane Cocks

Meritorious Service Award

The Hon. Terrance John Higgins AO QC
Mr. Harold James Hird OAM

ACT Bravery Awards

Commendation for Bravery

Mr. P. Zori
Mr. D. McCaskill
Mr. G. O'Neill
Mr. M. Gilet
Ms. N. Ballenden
Mr. N. Hansford
Constable R. Quilty, Australian Federal Police

Bravery Cross

Mr. Neil Maher
Miss Emily de Gier

Rescue Medal

Ms. Elise Waser
Mr. Barton Waser
Mr. John Waser
Mr. Kevin Nash
Mr. William Nash

Resuscitation Club Medal

Mr. Neil Maher
Mr. Paul Reynolds
Mr. Alexander Mackie
Ms. Brooke Smyth
Mr. Samuel Murphy

Life Members

The Hon. Terrence John Higgins AO QC
Mr. Geoff McGibbon
Ms. Christine McGibbon
Mr. Harold Hird OAM
Mr. Lyal Holley
Mr. Peter Castle
Mr. Peter Macaulay
Mr. Michael Higgins
Mr. Anthony Bandle

ACT Staff

Australian Service Order

Minimum 5 Years Service

Wayne Groeneweg
Nick Whalley
Lisa Dunlop
Ashley Kalz

ACT Supporters

ACT Government

icon WATER

Our Thanks

ACT Education
ACT Sport and Recreation
Ainslie Primary School
Amaroo Primary School
Aqua Harmony Swim School
Aquatots Swim School
Aranda Primary School
Arawang Primary School
Big Splash Water Park
Bonython Primary and Pre-School
Brindabella Christian College
Burgmann Anglican College
Calwell Primary School
Campbell Primary School
Canberra Christian School
Canberra Christian School
Canberra Girls Grammar School
Canberra International Sports and Aquatic Centre
Capital Chemist
Caroline Chisholm School
Chapman Primary School
Charles Weston Primary School
Charnwood Dunlop Primary School
Club Lime ANU
Covenant Christian School
Curtin Primary School
Dickson Aquatic Centre
Duffy Primary School
Evatt Primary School
Fadden Primary School
Farrer Primary School
Fitness First, Deakin
Forrest Primary School
Franklin Early Childhood School
Fraser Primary School
Garran Primary School
Gilmore Primary School
Giralang Primary School
Gold Creek School
Gowrie Primary School
Harrison School
Hawker Primary School
Kaleen Primary School
Kingsford Smith Primary School
Latham Primary School
Lyons Early Childhood School
Macgregor Primary School
Macquarie Primary School
Majura Primary School
Manuka Swimming Pool
Maribyrnong Primary School
Mawson Primary School
Miles Franklin Primary School
Monash Primary School
Namadgi School
Narrabundah Early Childhood School
National Capital Authority
National Zoo and Aquarium
Neville Bonner Primary School
Next Gen
Ngunnawal Primary School
North Ainslie School
Ochre Health
O'Connor Cooperative School
Palmerston District School
Radford College
Richardson Primary School
Sacred Heart School
Southern Cross Early Childhood School
St Bede's Primary School
St Claire of Assisi School
St Thomas Aquinas Primary School
St Thomas the Apostle Primary School
St Vincent's Primary School
Taylor Primary School
Telopea Park School
Theodore Primary School
Torrens Primary School
Trinity Christian School
Turner School
Viva Leisure
Wanniassa Hills Primary School
Wanniassa School
Weetangera Primary School
Yarralumla Primary School
YMCA NSW,
Canberra Olympic Pool
YMCA NSW,
Gungahlin Leisure Centre
YMCA NSW,
Lakeside Leisure Centre
YMCA NSW,
Stromlo Leisure Centre

Tasmania Commonwealth Honours

Vice President

Sir Basil Osborne, CBE
Doug Plaister, AO MBE

Life Governor

Sir Basil Osborne, CBE
Doug Plaister, AO MBE
Alan Swinton OAM, QPM, JP

Life Member

Alan Swinton OAM, QPM, JP
Gary Kearney

Service Cross

Nigel Carins
Mark Chandler
Mark Hayes
Gary Kearney
Alison McIntyre
David Mourant
Sir Basil Osborne, CBE
Doug Plaister, AO MBE
Robyn Pryce-Jones
Alan Swinton OAM, QPM, JP
Mark Hayes

First Bar to Service Cross

Gary Kearney
David Mourant
Doug Plaister, AO MBE
Robyn Pryce-Jones
Alan Swinton OAM, QPM, JP

Second Bar to Service Cross

Doug Plaister, AO MBE

Third Bar to Service Cross

Doug Plaister, AO MBE

Service Medal

Zearust Abbott
Judi Adams
Mark Barling
J William Brain
Vanessa Brown
Nigel Carins
Mark Chandler
Cynthia Craw
Roslyn Dillon
Geoffrey Frier
JJ Gardner
Peter Goss
R Mark Hayes
Dianne Hollister
Joseph Ingles
Judy Jessup
Gary Kearney
James Lyons
Dianne McHenry
Alison McIntyre
Amanda Mayes
Natalie Meldrum
Margaret Miller
David Mourant
Richard Penwright
Doug Plaister, AO MBE
R Barry Plaister
Robyn Pryce-Jones
Pamela Roberts
Noel Ruddock AM
Selby Simpson
Alan Swinton OAM, QPM, JP
Anne Thwaites
Brian Webb
Ceri Weeks

Bar to Service Medal

Zearust Abbott
William Brain
Nigel Carins
Mark Chandler
Roslyn Dillon
Peter Goss
R Mark Hayes
Gary Kearney
Margaret Miller
David Mourant
Doug Plaister, AO MBE
Noel Ruddock
Alan Swinton OAM, QPM, JP
BV Webb
Amanda Mayes

Honorary Associates

Rev Brother TG Addicoat
Barbara Baker
Betty Baker
Rev Brother N Baker
M Church
H Clennett
P Collins
Donald Ebsworth
LJ Elridge
Peter Fehre
Geoffrey Frier
M Goss
N Goss
Thomas Howard
Joseph Ingles
Frank Jenkins
DR Lewis
Donald McDonald
B McKittrick
H Meredith
Ronald Millington
Margaret Miller
David Mourant
Doug Plaister, AO MBE
R Barry Plaister
Robyn Pryce-Jones
Noel Ruddock AM
AA Rundle
Geoffrey Templeman
B Valentine
Donald Wicks

Diploma Holders

Barbara Baker
Betty Baker
Barbara Brain
Walter Bridley
Patricia Burbury
Dorothy Flinn
Steven Foley
Suzanne Geeves
Phillip Keam
Thomas Simpson
Roslyn Walsh
Paul Webb
Robyn Pryce-Jones

Tasmania Trophies

D.M. Luckin Memorial Trophy

Outstanding service across an extended period.

1994 Alan Winton OAM, QPM, JP
1995 Nigel Carins
1996 Gary Kearney
1997 David Mourant
1998 Alison McIntyre QPM, JP
1999 Robyn Pryce-Jones
2000 Diana McHenry
2001 Peter Goss
2002 Mark Chandler
2003 R Mark Hayes
2004 Jennifer Mazengarb
2005 Jill Bell
2006 Sue Wragge
2007 Suzanne Peacock
2008 Judi Adams
2009 Neryl Mills
2010 Alan Swinton OAM,
2011 Amanda Mayes
2012 Andrew Herbert
2013 Ceri Weeks
2014 Gary Kearney
2015 Anne Burrows
2016 Mark Chandler
2017 Amanda Mayes
2018 Pene Snashall

Dr. P. G. Luckin President's Trophy

Exceptional service across a 12-month period.

1997 Vanessa Brown
1998 Lorraine Brown
1999 Russell Goonan
2000 Alison McIntyre
2001 Jamie McIntyre
2002 Kate Mirowski
2003 Alison McIntyre
2004 Neryl Mills
2005 Amanda Mayes
2006 Rowan Morphett
2007 Kate Harland
2008 Vaughan Smith
2009 Camille O'Meara
2010 Julia Fassina
2011 Tracey Parry
2012 Tracey Parry & Neryl Mills
2013 Carolynn Taylor
2014 Amanda Mayes
2015 Pene Snashall
2016 Mel Bush
2017 Anne Burrows
2018 Gary Kearney

Tasmania Australian Honours

Senior Governor

Sir Basil Osborne, CBE
Doug Plaister, AO MBE

Life Membership

Gary Kearney
Robyn Pryce-Jones
Alan Swinton OAM, QPM, JP

Meritorious

Service Medal

Barbara Brain
Anne Burrows
Nigel Carins
Joseph Ingles
Gary Kearney
Alison McIntyre
Margaret Miller
David Mourant
Robyn Pryce-Jones
Noel Ruddock
Alan Swinton OAM, QPM, JP

Companion

Nigel Carins
Mark Chandler
Peter Goss
Diane Hollister
Gary Kearney
ianne McHenry
Alison McIntyre
David Mourant
Robyn Pryce-Jones
Alan Swinton OAM, QPM, JP

Fellow

Peter Goss
Dr Paul Luckin
Dianne McHenry
Mark Chandler
R Mark Hayes

Associate

R Mark Hayes
Jennifer Mazengarb
Natalie Meldrum
Ann Walker
Ceri Weeks
Penny Snashall

Australian Service Medal

Neryl Mills

Australian Resuscitation Club

Kate Chambers

Tasmania Honours

Vice Presidents

George Brothers
Patrick Chu
Francis Loo
Doug Plaister, AO MBE
Maxwell Robinson AO QPM
DH Tribolet
LE Weidenhofer
Sir Alfred White

Life Governors

Patrick Chu
Lyell Dowding
Henri Kwok
Francis Loo
Doug Plaister, AO MBE
Laurie Salmon
Vincent Shaw OAM

Life Members

Mark Chandler
Patrick Chu
Gary Kearney
Henri Kwok
Francis Loo
David Mourant
Doug Plaister, AO MBE
Robyn Pryce-Jones
Vincent Shaw OAM
Alan Swinton OAM, QPM, JP

Meritorious Service Badge

Zearust Abbott
Judi Adams
TG Addicoat
J Aschman
Betty Baker
Mark Barling
Ralph Barnes
Janet Bean
Barbara Brain
Vanessa Brown
Anne Burrows
Nigel Carins
David Chambers
Mark Chandler
H Clarke
Betty Clennett
BY Chiu
Graeme Cooksey
Sue Cooksey
Lindy Crack
Patrick Chu
Roslyn Dillon
K Edwards
Frederick Eiszele
Peter Fehre
Peter Fox
JJ Gardner
Suzanne Geeves
Russell Goonan
Peter Goss
Alan Goodfellow
Judy Gould
Katherine Greenwood
Kathy Hawkes
Mark S Hayes
R Mark Hayes
Andrew Herbert
Robert Hill
Diane Hollister
Christopher Holloway
Robin Hood
Thomas Howard
Di Hunt
Sister Ignatius
Joseph Ingles
Frank Jenkins
Alan Jolly
Gary Kearney
Donald Keating
Henri Kwok
Phillip Large
YW Law
TS Leung
Francis Loo
Dr Paul Luckin
James Lyons
Amanda Mayes
P McDonald
Jennifer Mazengarb
Donald McDonald
Dianne McHenry
Alison McIntyre
B McKittrick
Natalie Meldrum
Margaret Miller
Neryl Mills
William Mills
Rowen Morphett
David Mourant
Debra Norris
Camille O'Meara
Sir Basil Osborne, CBE
Tracey Parry
Betty Parssey
D Payton
Suzanne Peacock
Richard Penwright
Doug Plaister, AO MBE
R Barry Plaister
Russ Porter
Robyn Pryce-Jones
Howard Richardson
A John Rigby
Pamela Roberts
Dennis Robertson
Noel Ruddock
Daphne Saarman
Vincent Shaw OAM
Pene Snashall
Alan Swinton OAM, QPM, JP
Alma Swinton
KC Tam
Geoffrey Templeman
Anne Thwaites
N Vaughan
Kye Vincent
Gerald Viney
Ann Walker
Brian Webb
Ceri Weeks
Sir Alfred White
Pamela White
Sue Wragge
Patrick Yeung

Awards

Point Score

Royal Life Saving's Award Point Score is utilised each year to recognise schools and institutions who participate in our certification programs.

The President's Cup
For Tertiary Organisations

1st	Avondale University College
2nd	Katoomba TAFE
3rd	Charles Sturt University – Wagga

The Aquatic Club Trophy
For Girls High Schools

1st	Sydney Girls High School
2nd	Northern Beaches Secondary College Mackellar Girls Campus Awarded the Mrs S Bidner Trophy
3rd	Canterbury Girls High School

The City Tattersalls Club Cup
For Boys High Schools

1st	Asquith Boys High School
2nd	Liverpool Boys High School
3rd	Punchbowl Boys High School

The E.A. Fry Trophy
For Co-Educational Secondary Schools

1st	Dubbo College Senior Campus
2nd	RutherFord Technology High School Awarded the Bob Kalnin Award
3rd	Yanco Agricultural High School

The Eklund Cup
For Girls Independent Schools & College

1st	Ravenswood School For Girls
2nd	Pymble Ladies College Awarded the Herbert Wagstaff Trophy
3rd	MLC School

The Hendry Challenge Cup
For Boys Independent Schools & Colleges

1st	St. Josephs College – Hunters Hill
2nd	St. Ignatius College – Lane Cove
3rd	The Kings School

The Alan McClure Cup
For Co-Educational Independent School & Colleges

1st	St. Andrews College – Marayong
2nd	Good Samaritan Catholic College – Hinchinbrook
3rd	Clancy Catholic College

The Alwyne Wagstaffe Trophy
For Primary Schools 1st Class

1st	Rouse Hill Public School
2nd	Bonnyrigg Heights Public School
3rd	Canley Vale Public School

The M Cullen Trophy
For Primary School – 2nd Class

1st	Bennett Road Public School
2nd	Epping West Public School Awarded the Bower Cup
3rd	Hornsby North Public School

The H.F Paull Trophy
For Primary School – 3rd Class

1st	Merrylands Public School
2nd	North Kellyville Public School
3rd	Kempsey West Public School

The Percy Marks Cup
For Primary School – 4th Class

1st	John Palmer Public School
2nd	Gulyangarri Public School
3rd	Irrawang Public School

The Dominelli Ford Trophy
For Primary School – 5th Class

1st	Newrybar Public School
2nd	Biraban Public School
3rd	Maroubra Bay Public School

The Brighton–Le-Sands RSL Club Trophy
For Primary School – 6th Class

1st	Macdonald Valley Public School
2nd	Glenquarry Public School
3rd	Neville Public School

The Jack Stilwell Flynn Memorial Cup
For Central Schools – 1st Class

1st	Molong Central School
2nd	Dubbo School of Distance Education

The Helen Draper Trophy
For Central Schools – 2nd Class

1st	Balranald Central School
2nd	Walcha Central School
3rd	Peak Hill Central School

The H.C. Bamford Trophy
For Central Schools – 3rd Class

1st	Brewarrina Central School
2nd	Coleambally Central School
3rd	Boorowa Central School

The Rowley Vass Memorial Trophy
For Central Schools – 4th Class

1st	Trundle Central School
2nd	Yeoval Central School
2nd	Gulargambone Central School
3rd	Ungarie Central School

The F.D Leaney Trophy
For Schools for Specific Purposes

1st	NSW School of Languages
2nd	Aspect Macarthur School
3rd	Anson Street School

The Kelso King Excellence Shield
For Affiliated Lifesaving Clubs

1st	Enfield LSC
2nd	Parramatta Memorial Swim Club
3rd	Parramatta City Swim Club

The City Tattersals Club Trophy
For Metropolitan Schools

1st	St. Josephs College – Hunters Hill
2nd	Ravenswood School For Girls Awarded the Victor Frost Cup
3rd	St. Andrews College – Marayong

The W. Marx Trophy
For Country Schools

1st	Brewarrina Central School
2nd	Molong Central School Awarded the K W Draper Trophy
3rd	Coleambally Central School

The R.J. Coshott Trophy
For Girls Premier School of the State

1st	Ravenswood School For Girls

The Arthur Parker Cup
For Boys Premier School of the State

1st	St Joseph's College – Hunters Hill



ROYAL LIFE SAVING
NSW | ACT | TAS

For more information

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www.drowningprevention.org.au