



ROYAL LIFE SAVING NSW OFFICES

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THE BARE FACTS

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This is a joint initiative between
Royal Life Saving NSW and
Wagga Wagga City Council

ALCOHOL & DROWNING

Every year alcohol is a contributing factor in many drowning deaths in New South Wales. In excess of 10% of drownings in New South Wales are alcohol and drug related.

HIGH RISK POPULATION

Indigenous Australians are more than twice as likely to drown as non-Indigenous Australians as they have a drowning rate of 3.37 per 100,000 people and non-Indigenous Australians have a drowning rate of 1.51 per 100,000 people.

The majority (60%) of drowning deaths of Indigenous people in NSW occurred in the 0-4 year age group. This equates to a drowning rate of 16.2 per 100,000 people compared to 2.85 per 100,000 people for non-Indigenous 0-4 year olds residing in New South Wales. In New South Wales, Aboriginal children (0-4 years) are 5 times more likely to drown than non-Indigenous children (0-4 years).

OLDER PEOPLE

Research has identified that over 100 people aged 55 and above, have died due to drowning in New South Wales from 2007-2010.

LEGISLATION & POLICY

It is recommended that legislative documents take a best practice approach, to risk management with water safety. Further to this legislative policy should move towards consistent use of terminology across jurisdictions for access and educational levels to comply.

**DO NOT STRUGGLE
AGAINST THE
CURRENT.**

go with the flow

LOCATION, LOCATION

Rivers (30.8%) remain the most common location for drowning deaths in New South Wales, followed by beaches (18.7%) and swimming pools (17.8%)

Drowning deaths in rivers and swimming pools increased above the 5 year average with the greatest increase in rivers which was 32% above the 5 year average and 57% higher than 2009/2010.

EXTREME WEATHER

Sadly, many drowning deaths are directly related to flooding. Many of these drowning deaths were the result of driving through flood waters or swimming in swollen water ways.

Royal Life Saving is eager to work with local communities and government authorities to prevent further flood related drowning deaths.

LEARN TO SWIM & SURVIVE

Recent studies have found in excess of 50,000 students will leave primary school in Australia each year without having the ability to swim 50 metres or tread water for 2 minutes.

This is compounded by reluctance at teenage years to be involved in learn to swim programs due to peer pressure and social stigma.

Further information on Swim & Survive can be found at www.swimandsurvive.com.au or contacting your local NSW Royal Life Saving Society office.

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