



South East Queensland Water Safety Forum 2023

> **Monday 15th & Tuesday 16th May**
Pimpama Sports Hub, Gold Coast



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South East Queensland Water Safety Forum 2023

> Forum Introduction

Welcome to the South East Queensland Water Safety Forum 2023

Your attendance reinforces your commitment to working together to shape strategies to address drowning in the region which we all share concern for. We meet at a critical juncture.

More than 366 people have drowned in the region in the last 10 years. 30 per cent of these drowning deaths occurred in rivers and creeks, 25 per cent on beaches and 18 per cent in swimming pools.

Too many of these drowning deaths were local, were men and involved excessive alcohol consumption.

Additionally, there are challenges in water safety education: we are all concerned about the risks of generational impact of the pandemic, compounding already concerning gaps in children's swimming abilities.

These challenges are all interconnected. Without collaboration we cannot expect to meet the Australian Water Safety Strategy 2030 goal of reducing drowning by 50 per cent by 2030.

We know that a range of community, industry and government partners have a role to play in reducing drowning, keeping the community safe and facilitating safe enjoyment of waterways. We also know that the community themselves have an important role to play in creating and sustaining cultural change.

The South East Queensland Water Safety Forum at which we are gathered is unique. The Forum brings together more than 150 respected and experienced leaders in policy, emergency management, aquatic safety, education and research, all to address key issues.

Together we will share ideas, information and develop solutions. The forum is delivered in two streams:

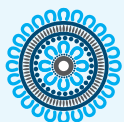
- **A Drowning Prevention Planning stream** which focuses on the development of a multidisciplinary drowning prevention plan with contribution from a number of sectors and groups
- **An Aquatic Facility Safety stream** will bring together leaders from aquatic facilities and swim schools across South East Queensland with the aim of sharing best practices in aquatic facility safety and risk management.

Together this week we can transform wicked problems into a more unified path which address these challenges, and the emerging threats they present, to work towards our overall goal, which is preventing drowning. We hope to reach consensus by the close of the Forum on Tuesday on a collective strategy which will drive our efforts to save lives and ensure everyone can enjoy the water safely.

I encourage you to be open, engaged and focused on a collective outcome.

Justin Scarr

Chief Executive Officer
Royal Life Saving Society - Australia



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We respectfully acknowledge and pay respects to the people of the Yugambeh language region of the Gold Coast and all their descendants both past and present. We also acknowledge the many Aboriginal people from other regions as well as Torres Strait and South Sea Islander people who now live in the local area and have made an important contribution to the community. We recognise their ongoing connection to land, waters and communities.

South East Queensland Water Safety Forum Program

> Day 1: Monday 15th May 2023

PLENARY	
8.30am	Registration and Arrival Tea & Coffee
9.00am	Acknowledgement of Country Symposium Opening Address Paul Barry, Executive Director, Royal Life Saving Society - Queensland
9.15-9.30am	PRESENTATIONS Overview of coastal safety in Queensland, issues and opportunities Dave Whimpey, Chief Executive Officer, Surf Life Saving Queensland
9.30-9.45am	Overview of drowning in SE QLD: drowning statistics, risk factors, impacts Professor Richard Franklin, James Cook University & RLSSA Research Advisor
9.45-10.00am	Findings of the SE QLD Community Water Safety Survey Dr Katrien Pickles, Senior Research and Policy Officer, Royal Life Saving Society - Australia
10.00am	PANEL DISCUSSION Experiences from the frontline of drowning rescue, response & resuscitation Natalie Edwards, Lifesaving Services Manager, Surf Life Saving Queensland Professor John Pearn, Queensland University, Royal Children's Hospital Brisbane. National Medical Advisor RLSSA Peta McLucas, Executive Support Officer, St John's Ambulance Chris Maynard, A/Executive Coordinator Lifeguard Services, City of Gold Coast
10.30-11.00am	Morning Tea Break



DAY 1: SESSION 1

Stream	AQUATIC INDUSTRY SAFETY	DROWNING PREVENTION PLANNING
Theme	Learning from incidents in aquatic facilities	Introduction to local water safety planning
11.00-11.15am	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <p>Drowning and injury data in aquatic facilities Dr Katrien Pickles, Senior Research and Policy Officer, Royal Life Saving Society - Australia</p>	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <p>Water Safety Planning, from International Frameworks, to the Australian Water Safety Strategy - why local water safety plans are a priority for drowning prevention Justin Scarr, Chief Executive Officer, Royal Life Saving Society - Australia</p>
11.15-11.30am	<p>The cost of drowning - the social and medical toll Professor John Pearn, Queensland University, Royal Children's Hospital Brisbane. National Medical Advisor RLSSA</p>	<p>WORKSHOP</p> <p>Around the grounds, overview of water safety across the network: hearing from participants All attendees</p>
11.30-11.45am	<p>Managing critical incidents at aquatic facilities - Belgravia Leisure Etienne Verster, Group Safety Advisor, Belgravia Leisure</p>	
11:45-12:00pm	<p>Managing critical incidents at aquatic facilities - City of Gold Coast Joe Naranieki, Compliance Officer – Aquatic Centres, Gold Coast City Council</p>	
12:00-12:15pm	<p>WorkSafe: Overview of incident investigations in aquatic facilities Elias Jeha, Legal Support Officer, Work Health Safety Queensland</p>	
12:15 – 12.30pm	Group Photo	
12.30-1:00pm	Lunch Break	

South East Queensland Water Safety Forum Program

> Day 1: Monday 15th May 2023

DAY 1: SESSION 2

Stream	AQUATIC INDUSTRY SAFETY	DROWNING PREVENTION PLANNING
Theme	Current safety issues in aquatic facilities	Priority issues for drowning prevention part 1
1:00-1:15pm	PRESENTATION Child supervision programs in Australia - current state Dr Katrien Pickles, Senior Research and Policy Officer, Royal Life Saving Society - Australia	PRESENTATION Introduction to the South East Queensland Water Safety Strategy Draft RJ Houston, General Manager - Capability & Industry, Royal Life Saving Society - Australia
1:15-1:30pm	Advanced supervision - where professional pool lifeguard supervision is heading in Australia Nikki Thornhill, State Manager, Royal Life Saving Society - Queensland	WORKSHOP Identifying and refining water safety strategic focus areas All attendees
1:30-1:45pm	New GSPO: Child Safety Marty Moran, National Manager - Industry Safety, Royal Life Saving Society - Australia	
1:45-2:00pm	Psychosocial safety management: what you need to know Liz van Deventer, Group Work Health Safety Safety Manager, Belgravia Group	
2:00-2:30pm	PANEL DISCUSSION – LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS What do local government contract managers expect of their operators when it comes to water safety in aquatics? Brad Page, Logan City Council Cath Sharples, Brisbane City Council Matt Howes, Sunshine Coast Council Tim Goward, City of Gold Coast	WORKSHOP Identifying and defining regional key issues in drowning prevention All attendees
2:30-2:45pm	Welcome from Minister Ryan MP & Award Presentation	
2:45-3:15pm	Afternoon Tea Break	

DAY 1: SESSION 3

Stream	AQUATIC INDUSTRY SAFETY	DROWNING PREVENTION PLANNING
Theme	Operational excellence	Priority issues for drowning prevention part 2
3:15-4:00pm	FACILITY TOUR – PIMPAMA SPORTS HUB City of Gold Coast Staff & Management will show delegates around the facility, highlighting key features, lessons learned and opportunities for facility owners and operators to ask questions.	WORKSHOP Finding and refining consensus on key issues in drowning prevention
4.00-4.30pm		PANEL DISCUSSION The day in review and looking forward to tomorrow Facilitated by: Professor Richard Franklin, James Cook University
4.30-5.30pm	NETWORKING FUNCTION Join us to relax and network with colleagues	

South East Queensland Water Safety Forum Program

> Day 2: Tuesday 16th May 2023

PLENARY

9.00am

PRESENTATIONS

When risk management goes wrong, lessons from pool drownings interstate

RJ Houston, General Manager - Capability & Industry, Royal Life Saving Society - Australia

9.15-9.30am

New research into implementation of swimming and water safety framework & the 5 lanes to swimming and water safety

RJ Houston, General Manager - Capability & Industry, Royal Life Saving Society - Australia

9.30-9.45am

Queensland - the water safe state: audit report into Water Safety and Swimming Education Programs in Queensland State Schools

Kylie Smith, Acting Executive Director Curriculum, Department of Education

9.45-10.00am

Challenges and strategies in managing recreational water bodies, how collaboration is strengthening safety in dams and reservoirs

David Lawrence, General Manager Health and Safety, Sunwater

10.00am

PANEL DISCUSSION

Swimming and water safety skills, are the settings right?

Brad Low, Chief Executive Officer, AUSTSWIM

Brendan Ward, Chief Executive Officer, Swim Coaches and Teachers Association

Emily McNeil, General Manager, Australian Swim Schools Association

Paul Barry, Executive Director, Royal Life Saving Society - Queensland

10.30-11.00am

Morning Tea Break



DAY 2: SESSION 1

Stream	AQUATIC INDUSTRY SAFETY	DROWNING PREVENTION PLANNING
Theme	Current & future approaches to industry risk management	Setting the strategy objectives
11.00-11.15am	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <p>Emergency planning: the approach at City Venue Management</p> <p>Tom Mills, Facility Operations and Safety, City Venue Management</p>	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <p>Snapshot of coastal safety issues and opportunities across SE QLD</p> <p>Natalie Edwards, Lifesaving Services Manager, Surf Life Saving Queensland</p>
11.15-11.30am	<p>QLD Water quality guidelines for public aquatic facilities & water quality risk management planning</p> <p>Heidi Grodecki, Advanced Environmental Health Officer - Water, Queensland Health</p>	<p>Innovation case study: Marina safety solution</p> <p>PJ Williams, Director, Man Overboard Marina Alarm System</p>
11.30-11.45am	<p>Supervision planning: the Belgravia Approach</p> <p>Scott Vanderhayden, National Aquatic Safety Manager – Leisure, Belgravia Leisure</p>	<p>Snapshot of home pool safety standard, inspectors and regulations</p> <p>Spiros Dassakis, Chief Policy Officer, SPASA</p>
11:45-12:00pm	<p>Audit & risk assurance: Platinum Pools Approach at the City of Gold Coast</p> <p>Tim Goward, A/ Branch Manager, Community Venues and Services, City of Gold Coast</p>	<p>Influence of influencers - research on influence of social media on water safety</p> <p>Samuel Cornell, PhD Candidate, University of New South Wales</p>
12:00-12:30pm	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION</p> <p>How can we, as an industry, better collaborate & drive consistency of standard adoption across the QLD Industry?</p> <p>Tom Mills, Facility Operations and Safety, City Venue Management</p> <p>Dan Cullen, QLD & NT State Manager, Belgravia Leisure</p> <p>Tim Goward, Acting Branch Manager - Community Venues & Services, City of Gold Coast</p> <p>Cath Sharples, Sports and Aquatic Contracts Officer, Brisbane City Council</p>	<p>Snapshot of inland waterway ownership & policy issues</p> <p>WORKSHOP ACTIVITY:</p> <p>Collaboration continuum</p> <p>RJ Houston, General Manager - Capability & Industry, Royal Life Saving Society - Australia</p>
12.30-1:00pm	Lunch Break	

South East Queensland Water Safety Forum Program

> Day 2: Tuesday 16th May 2023

DAY 2: SESSION 2		
Stream	AQUATIC INDUSTRY SAFETY	DROWNING PREVENTION PLANNING
Theme	Current challenges	Establishing strategic actions
1:30-2:00pm	WORKSHOP Current challenges in safety facing:	WORKSHOP Setting targets for each priority area
2:00-3:00pm	1) You as a leader 2) Your facility 3) The industry in QLD	WORKSHOP Articulating actions and closing the gaps
Theme	Aquatics 2023 and beyond	Wrap up and next steps
3:00-3:15pm	PRESENTATION Overview of industry advocacy & frameworks & a future path RJ Houston, General Manager - Capability & Industry, Royal Life Saving Society - Australia	PRESENTATION Overview of next steps Brooke Cherfils, National Manager - Lifesaving Development, Royal Life Saving Society - Australia
3:15-4:00pm	OPEN MIC Summary & key takeaways All forum participants	OPEN MIC Summary & key takeaways All forum participants
4.00pm	CLOSE OF EVENT	

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We thank Aflex Inflatables for their support of the South East Queensland Water Safety Forum



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The work of the RLSSA is supported by the Australian Government



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