



MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION OF DROWNING PREVENTION

DOES AUSTRALIA HAVE A NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISM FOR DROWNING PREVENTION? YES

SELECTED SECTORS AND AGENCIES INVOLVED IN DROWNING PREVENTION:

Ministry of Health | Ministry of Education | Police | Disaster risk reduction | Meteorology Department | Ministry of Transport | Maritime safety | Coastguard | Ministry of Sport | Royal Life Saving Society Australia | Surf Life Saving Australia

INTERVENTIONS FOR DROWNING PREVENTION

	AVAILABLE	COVERAGE	EVALUATED
Physical barriers	●	HIGH	YES
Swim skills training	●	HIGH	YES
Childcare	●	HIGH	-
Public awareness on drowning	●	HIGH	YES
Manage flood risks	●	MED	YES
Disaster warning systems	●	HIGH	YES
Public awareness on alcohol and swimming/boating	●	MED	YES
Rescue and resuscitation	●	MED	YES
Lifeguards	●	HIGH	YES
Search and rescue	●	HIGH	YES
Maritime safety	●	HIGH	YES
Media	●	MED	YES

SOURCES OF DROWNING DATA

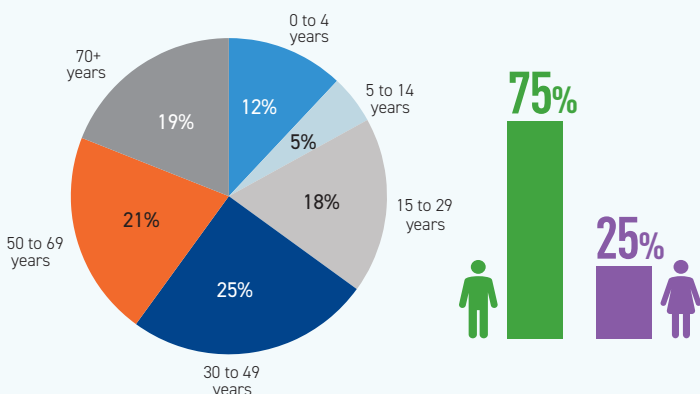
SOURCE OF DATA	TYPE OF DROWNING CAPTURED			
	FATAL	INFORMATION COLLECTED*	NON-FATAL	INFORMATION COLLECTED*
Vital registry	●	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	N/A	-
Verbal autopsy	-	-	N/A	-
Hospital admission data	●	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	●	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Hospital emergency department data	●	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	●	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Police	●	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	●	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Transport sector	●	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	●	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Education sector	-	-	-	-
Maritime safety	●	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	●	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Coastguard	●	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	●	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Tourism sector	-	-	-	-
National community survey	-	-	-	-
Media	●	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	●	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

■ Age ■ Sex ■ Type of drowning event ■ Activity ■ Water body

Drowning deaths in community settings are captured YES
 Persons missing at sea are assumed to have died YES
 Persons missing at sea are assumed to have drowned YES

PROPORTION OF DROWNING DEATHS ASSOCIATED WITH ALCOHOL 33%

SHARE OF DROWNING DEATHS BY AGE GROUP^a



^aGlobal Health Estimates (GHE) data, 2019

^bGHE data, 2000-2019

National Drowning Reports developed by Royal Life Saving Society - Australia available: <https://www.royallife-saving.com.au/research-and-policy/drowning-research/national-drowning-reports>

STRATEGY AND TARGETS FOR DROWNING PREVENTION

DOES AUSTRALIA HAVE A NATIONAL WATER SAFETY STRATEGY? YES

Are measurable targets to reduce drowning included? YES

If yes, please specify:

The National Australian Water Safety Strategy 2030 has the goal to reduce drowning by 50% by 2030.

Do these strategies align with relevant SDGs? NO

Are plans underway, or is there interest, to develop a national water strategy? -

LEGISLATION AND REGULATION FOR DROWNING PREVENTION

MARITIME SAFETY

		ENFORCEMENT	
		LIMITED	MAXIMUM
Mandated registration of watercraft	YES	8	
Mandated licensing of watercraft	YES	8	
Mandated periodic safety inspections of watercraft	YES	7	
Mandated licensing of the operator	YES	7	
Individuals responsible for overall safety of watercraft	Owner/Operator/Crew/ Enforcement officers		
Law against alcohol consumption and boating	YES	7	
If yes, specify blood alcohol concentration limit:	0.05%	-	
Law against drug use and boating	YES	7	
Restrictions on watercraft passenger capacity	YES	5	
Restrictions on watercraft load capacity	YES	5	
Mandated provision of lifejackets on board watercraft	YES	9	
Specific standard of lifejacket required	Varies by state		
Specific number of lifejackets required	YES	9	

Watercraft often exempt from national maritime legislation:

Some exemptions exist to certain regulations, by state.

CHILD SAFETY

Fencing to exclude children from swimming pools	YES	9
Swimming lessons in school curricula	YES	7
Structured adult supervision of preschool children	YES	10
Prosecution of neglect against children	YES	9

WATER SAFETY COMPETENCIES

Required competencies for swimming instructors	YES	8
Required competencies for lifeguards	YES	8

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Private communication channels broadcast disaster warnings	YES	8
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DROWNING DATA

One agency maintains all vital registry statistics	-	-
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- No response or not applicable

RATE OF DROWNING DEATHS^b

