



Daryl Maguire MP

Member for Wagga Wagga

PRESS RELEASE

10 November 2017

\$173,684 TO IMPROVE WATER SAFETY IN WAGGA WAGGA

Member for Wagga Wagga Daryl Maguire today announced a \$173,684 Water Safety Fund Community Grant to help local community members learn how to swim and improve their water safety skills.

Mr Maguire said that Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga was successful in its application for funding for the ‘Learn to Swim Safe Today, Don’t let the chance float away’ program.

“This program will engage local community members from refugee, migrant and international student populations in the Riverina in a range of initiatives to build knowledge and skills around how to engage safely in and around the water, including how to identify potential dangers and respond in emergency situations,” Mr Maguire said.

“In 2016-17 there were 93 drowning deaths in NSW, and between last Christmas and 8 January tragically 21 people lost their lives on our waterways. These are sobering statistics and a reminder about the importance of water safety.

“The Liberals & Nationals Government remains committed to increasing water safety awareness and practices across the State.”

The ‘Learn to Swim Safe Today, Don’t let the chance float away’ program includes:

- An 18 month program for local community members to participate in swim and survival lessons to familiarise students with safe water practices and increase confidence in the water.
- All participants will then undertake CPR training and engage in river safety information sessions delivered by the Riverina branch of the Royal Life Saving Society.
- Cultural community leaders will be identified throughout each phase of delivery and receive first-aid training. These leaders will also be consulted on the development and production of appropriate resources that can then be distributed throughout their communities.

Minister for Emergency Services Troy Grant said the NSW Government is committed to improving water safety and reducing the number of preventable deaths in the water.

“Our message is clear – where there is water, there is danger. I urge everyone to enjoy our beaches, rivers, lakes, and backyard swimming pools over the summer months, but to do so safely and responsibly.”

Further information on the NSW Government’s Water Safety Fun Community Grants program is available at: <http://www.watersafety.nsw.gov.au/Pages/water-safety-fund/Water-Safety-Fund.aspx>