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Joining Forces to Teach Aussie Kids to Swim and Survive

Shoalhaven City Council joins forces with Royal Life Saving Society – Australia to teach Aussie kids to Swim and Survive in order to prevent children from drowning.

The overall number of drowning deaths has increased a staggering 20% in two years according to Royal Life Saving's National Drowning Report 2010, creating grave concerns that many children have little or no basic water safety skills. The report shows that 56 children aged under 17 years drowned from July 2009 to June 2010 and revealed that the drowning death figure of 314 between July 1st 2009 and June 30th 2010 was the highest in the past seven years.

Royal Life Saving estimates that one in five children aged 11–12 years will leave primary school without the skills to swim one length of an Olympic swimming pool. Thousands of Australian children have limited or no swimming skills, in addition to poor water safety knowledge or personal survival skills that could save their lives in an emergency.

"It's alarming that children do not have the foundation skills for safe and enjoyable aquatic recreation. Through the delivery of the Swim and Survive Program at our facilities, we aim to increase the number of children participating, as well as increasing the level of swimming and water safety skills. Shoalhaven City Council is proud to be a Royal Life Saving Swim and Survive Partner," said Kevin Norwood, Council's Aquatics Manager.

Swim and Survive is a national swimming and water safety program supported by UNCLE TOBYS®, teaching children aged from six months to 14 years essential swimming, water safety, survival and rescue skills. The Program reflects the development milestones appropriate for each age group; providing opportunities for a solid education in water safety through a progressive pathway.

"Building partnerships with Shoalhaven City Council's aquatic facilities is an important component in our drowning prevention strategy," said David Macallister, CEO of Royal Life Saving NSW.

Working together with Royal Life Saving by becoming a Swim and Survive Partner, creates a quality delivery agent that meets stringent standards to educate the Shoalhaven community with Royal Life Saving's proven 'Swim and Survive' Program. Shoalhaven City Council's aquatic facilities at Bay and Basin Leisure Centre, Ulladulla Leisure Centre and Bomaderry and Sussex Inlet Aquatic Centres have met standards in venue safety, teaching qualifications, Swim and Survive Program delivery, signage and policy adherence, to become a Swim and Survive Partner.

Further information is available through the above Centres on Ph 4429 3562.

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