

# organisation profile

## Background:

AUSTSWIM, The Australian Council for the Teaching of Swimming and Water Safety, was formed in 1979 with the objective of developing a consistent and better quality training of Teachers of Swimming and Water Safety across Australia. AUSTSWIM consists of a National Council which has members from The Royal Life Saving Australia, Surf Life Saving Australia, Swimming Australia Ltd, YMCA, ALFA and from AUSTSWIM State Advisory Committees from each state and territory of Australia.

Over the ensuing years, AUSTSWIM developed a core AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety™ Course and registration process. The AUSTSWIM training and accreditation is recognised by industry as the core to the development of personal aquatic survival skills and as the minimum standard to teach swimming and water safety. AUSTSWIM accreditation requires teachers to maintain their skills through regular professional development, teaching and minimum CPR standards by renewing every 3 years with AUSTSWIM. AUSTSWIM training and accreditation licencing is mandated for teachers in local government facilities and programs throughout NSW via the Department of Local Government Practice Note 15. It is the mandated qualification in The Royal Life Saving Society Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations and is the nominated qualification for GST exemption for Water Safety and Swimming lessons. All state and territory Departments of Education also mandate AUSTSWIM accreditation.

AUSTSWIM trains and accredits 10,000 Teachers of Swimming and Water Safety per year, has trained over 170,000 Teachers since inception and has currently over 29,000 active, accredited teachers on its records.

## Safer Australian's

through training Teachers to Teach Personal Aquatic Survival Skills:

AUSTSWIM conducts extensive training and education programs for teachers of swimming and water safety skills with an underlying philosophy of equity of access - "Water Safety for all Australians". To do this, AUSTSWIM provides a range of training and education programs to train teachers of water safety and swimming to teach the following:

- **AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety™** - this program is aimed at children 4 years to adults.
- **AUSTSWIM Teacher of Infant & Preschool Aquatics™** - this program is aimed at infants from 6 months of age to 4 years of age.
- **AUSTSWIM Teacher of Aquatics for People with a Disability™** - this program is aimed at programs for people with a disability to cater for integration into mainstream programs or one of one specialist programs.
- **AUSTSWIM Teacher of Towards Competitive Strokes™** - this program is aimed at providing AUSTSWIM teachers™ further knowledge and skills on providing programs for children in the area of stroke development.
- **AUSTSWIM Teacher of Adults™** - this program provides the AUSTSWIM teacher™ with the knowledge and skills to teach the adult from 18 years of age through to the older adult.

## Training Support Materials:

To assist in maintaining and enhancing the quality of its training, AUSTSWIM develops resources to support teachers of water safety and swimming. It does so through industry consultation, a range of training resources and support materials. These training resources are reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure they meet current needs of the industry and community groups.

AUSTSWIM takes pride in developing quality resources that AUSTSWIM teachers™ can use as an ongoing reference tool.

A range of support material is also provided to AUSTSWIM Course Presenters to utilise when delivering the AUSTSWIM course. This material supports the candidate's resources and includes PowerPoint's and DVD's and on-line resources.

AUSTSWIM then provides AUSTSWIM teachers™ access to ongoing resources through professional development opportunities and regular communication via newsletters and email.



## Access for all Australians:

AUSTSWIM has a prime objective of improving access to resources and programs for rural and remote teachers of water safety and swimming:

AUSTSWIM works with the communities in rural and remote areas to ensure AUSTSWIM training and education programs are accessible to the community on a regular basis. The provision of swimming and water safety programs in the rural and remote areas is dependent on there being access to an AUSTSWIM teacher™. To ensure essential water safety education programs can be provided to the local community AUSTSWIM works closely with the Department of Education, local schools, and aquatic facilities to offer training and education programs as required.

Developing water safety and swimming programs for indigenous and culturally and linguistically different groups within the Australian community.

To take effect to this, adjustment is made by working closely with these special population groups to ensure the training and education programs developed meet their specific needs. Through individuals from these groups becoming an AUSTSWIM teacher™, water safety and swimming programs are then offered to children and adults within these communities increasing safety around our aquatic environment.

AUSTSWIM works with community groups to promote the education and training programs in particular schools, TAFE's, universities, aquatic facilities, return to work agencies and specialist groups (indigenous and marginalised groups). Where AUSTSWIM identifies specific and special needs population groups which are underrepresented, community members are encouraged to take up AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety™ Training through direct contact and liaison. Specific learning materials are produced to ensure that course materials are culturally appropriate and that course outcomes are of the best possible outcomes.

## Professional Development of Teachers:

In order to have the best teachers of swimming and water safety available to the community and to maintain teachers focus and commitment, AUSTSWIM conduct a range of professional development activities.

AUSTSWIM offers AUSTSWIM teachers™ regular access to a range of conferences seminars and workshop in all states and territory of Australia. State based conferences are offered each year with speakers from the local area. Whilst once a year a National Conference is conducted to provide teachers with the opportunity to hear from speakers from all states, territory and also internationally. Topics range from personal professional development to current industry research to providing teachers with specialist topics in the areas they teach in.

## Support for Water Safety in Neighbouring Countries:

Another important objective for AUSTSWIM is to improve water safety in neighbouring countries:

AUSTSWIM undertakes and supports a range of international initiatives aimed at reducing catastrophic drowning rates in developing and disadvantaged countries.

AUSTSWIM is currently working with relevant organisations in the following countries: Vietnam, South Africa and Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Middle East, Singapore, East Timor and Hong Kong. Preliminary arrangements are also being made for the teaching of swimming and water safety programs in India.

