C:\Users\Peter Fitzsimmons\Pictures\Logos\Water Safety NZ.jpg

**A Water Safety Strategy for the Auckland Region (ARWSS)**

**Objective**

***To articulate a coordinated and collaborative work plan for Auckland water safety organisations to reduce drowning fatalities and hospitalisations and build a culture of safe enjoyment around water.***

WSNZ has a national leadership mandate to deliver drowning prevention education and programmes aligned to the agreed Water Safety Sector Strategy 2020.

Developing regional water safety strategies is consistent with the WSNZ mandate.

The WSNZ Board recognised the water safety sector does not currently have a clear and agreed understanding of the nature and drivers of the Auckland Region’s drowning problem.

The size of the Auckland Region, the dynamic character of its population and ethnic communities, and the changing nature of local aquatic participation all present unique problems that have to be factored into coherent drowning prevention solutions.

There is no collective agreement on the types of water safety interventions that will have the greatest impact on Auckland’s drowning problem, aligned to the Sector Strategy 2020.

This in turn means uncertainty that current expenditure on water safety initiatives, including WSNZ investments is the most effective way to prevent drowning in the Region.

The differing mandates of the water safety organisations in the Auckland Region also makes effective planning, action and use of resources difficult, particularly without a coordinated effort around a collectively agreed strategic direction.

The WSNZ Board committed to addressing these issues, through resolving a comprehensive water safety strategy for the Auckland Region in partnership with Drowning Prevention Auckland.

WSNZ initiated the project in February 2017

**The ARWSS Project**

**Leadership**

* Jonty Mills CEO WSNZ as Owner/Sponsor
* Peter Fitzsimmons as Strategic Advisor
* Jonathon Webber as Expert Advisor
* Davin Bray CEO WAI as provider of support resources
* Matt Barker (WSNZ Board) and Sandi Gusscott (WAI Board) form the ARWSS Reference Panel with Peter Fitzsimmons

**Key Auckland statistics/data**

There are 4 factors that could lead to a drowning as set out in **Appendix A**

* Ignorance, disregard or misjudgement of, or, unprepared for the danger
* Uninformed, unexpected or unrestricted access to the hazard
* Lack of supervision or surveillance
* An inability to cope once in difficulty

A summary of **Auckland drowning fatalities 2012 – 2016** is set out in **Appendix B**

*(In addition analysis of* ***2016 Auckland data leading to ACC claims*** *showed of the 12,000 active aquatic activity claims totalling $19m,* ***7,700 of those were Auckland related, totalling $11.7m)***

A summary of a **‘Where, Why and Who’ Preventable Drowning Deaths in Auckland 2012–2016** is set out in **Appendix C**

As set out in **Appendix D** there is a significant level of delivery activity across a wide range of programmes.

**Conclusions**

* That intervention activity is not reducing the drowning toll plus hospitalisations are increasing
* At risk individuals/families/communities are not necessarily being reached through education and teaching of survival skills
* Such cohorts may not understand water hazards and may not have the competence to survive an incident
* There is no income or revenue derived from use of coastal or inland waters in NZ

*Commentary - Makes the sector difficult to fund as unlike the roads, alcohol harm reduction, smoking – there is no tax levy or rate readily available to fund any harm reduction activity occurring from the activity*

* Auckland Council currently has no responsibility for the provision of water safety outside of swimming pool fencing and the quality of swimmable and potable water.

*Commentary – There is currently no regional or national authority responsible for ensuring public health and safety when using coastal and inland water (bar swimming pools use through district and regional council plans), this means funding is mostly discretionary, ad-hoc and variable. It also may contribute to any lack of cohesion evident*

**Solutions**

**Specific Auckland Priority intervention areas**

Priorities to be set when addressing the strategies needed to address each of the 4 aspects of the drowning chain can be grouped as follows

* Education and information
* Denial of access and or provision of warnings
* Provision of supervision, and
* Acquisition of survival skills

**Task**

**Consultation was undertaken with lead regional agencies (SLSNR, CNR, DPA, SNZ, Aktive, FYFOD) to define Auckland specific priorities in areas where there may or may not be any activities or programmes or where greater commitment is required to reinforce existing delivery and where focus, alignment and cooperation would better utilise human and financial resources**

**Outcomes**

* What’s out identity/product/marketing?
* What are the water safety outcomes?
* What is the (overriding) story?
* 2017 drowning toll holding but mix changing
* Near fatals temporary/permanent disablement a growing reality
* Increasing societal/ACC cost
* New emerging ethnicities
* Near term plan (drowning statistics) versus long term plan (outcomes of Water Skills for Life)
* Existing programmes essential to maintain status quo

(GAAAP and FYFOD (current reach around 40,000 kids)

* New money needed to change incidence over time
* Volunteers are a principal resource

* Auckland Council Plan 2018 – 2028 leverage/synergy
* Regional Alliance - sharing of information, delivery packages and ‘deal making’ to best apply resources to targeted interventions
* Explore social media as a cost effective means of reaching target audiences
* Data warehouse
* Public awareness campaigns
* Education (break down barriers)
* Skills training

**Appendix A**

**Drowning Prevention Strategies – International Life Saving Federation - 2015 Edition**

**Pictorial Representation of the Drowning Chain**

****

**Appendix B**

**Auckland Drowning Fatalities 2012 – 2016**

**Appendix C**

**‘Where, Why and Who’ Preventable Drowning Deaths in Auckland 2012–2016**

**Appendix D**

**Current drowning prevention interventions delivered in Auckland**

**Early Childhood**

Learn to Swim - babies and pre-schoolers

PLD and resources for early childhood parents and educators

In water competence programme of lessons for caregiver and child

Early childhood visits – water safety messages (offering discounted water confidence lessons)

Water safety promotions through key regional and local events

**Primary Age**

Learn to Swim - Children

GAAAP

School Learn to Swim

Community Swim – pool access

Beach Education

City Nippers (Urban beach based public education outside of school)

Nippers (SLS member sport and education programme)

Cadets (SLS member Sport and education programme)

Safe Boating

Lifejacket Loan Scheme

Water Wise – school based

Surf to Schools - classroom

Wave Warriors Surfing Safety Days

Kiwi Swim Safe- delivery training & support

Wai Schools Y0 – 8 PLD & resources

Outdoors and EOTC PLD

Junior Award Scheme - Swim & Survive

Sea Scouts Badges

Break-Away – WS holiday programme

Mini Dippers – WS confidence snorkelling

Hiwi the Kiwi Goes Fishing

EOTC Activity Days

Wero Holiday Programme

Water Sports - skills

Water safety promotions through key regional and local events

**Secondary/Youth/Young Adults**

Learn To Swim - Young Adult

Wai Turama – Maori PI Asian youth

Wai Wise – safe aquatic practices at risk Maori New Settler & PI Youth

New Settler – International Students

Wai Schools 7 – 13 PLD & resources

Tertiary PLD

AUSTSWIM

Swim Teacher Award

Gateway - aquatic employment qualifications

Pool Lifeguard

Surf Lifeguard

Rookie programme (14yr older education programme for SLS members)

Life Saving Award Scheme

EOTC Activity Days

Spirit of Adventure Voyages

Oranga Poutama - leadership Maori settings

Water Sports – Skills

Wai Promotions – Events

**Adults**

Learn To Swim - Adult

Women Only Swimming

New Settler & Refugees - water competence

PLD and resources for early childhood parents and educators

Whanau Nui - caregivers

AUST SWIM

Swim Teacher Award

Water Wise Instructor

Surf Life Guard Award

Rock Fishing Education Programme

Immigrant outreach education

Residential Pools – consents

Residential Pools – Home Show

Make Home a Safe Zone

Bathmat Project

PI Communities – PI Churches

Land Based Fishing Safety – Maori PI Asian

Workplace – H&S water hazards

Puataunofo – PI employees

Scuba Diver Instructor

Scuba Diver Open Water Qualification

Sea Scout Leaders Charge Certificate

Shallow Water Blackout

River & Flood Rescue Courses

River Rescue Workshop

Raft Guide

Kayak River Safety

Boating Education Courses

Lifejacket Hubs - Maori PI Asian via churches

Folau Malu – PI Day Skipper

Bar Awareness Courses

Ladies suddenly in charge courses

Navigational Safety Legislation Compliance

Boat Promotions & Talks

AdventureSmart- WS Code Resources

Water Sports - Skills

Tourists – water safety awareness

Wai Promotions – Events

Just Add Water Conference