

Water Safety

The Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) supports the enjoyment of water-based sport and recreation activities in a safe manner. The department has committed to the *WA Water Safety Framework 2004-2007* with its purpose to achieve coordination and collaboration among government and non-government agencies for the improved strategic management of water safety in Western Australia.

DSR supports the strategic action areas of the framework aimed at reducing incidents of drowning:

- Water Safety Education and Awareness
- Research and Evaluation
- Policy, Standards, Legislation and Enforcement
- Surveillance and Rescue

Background

Drowning occurs in a number of settings. Young children more often drown in private swimming pools, nappy buckets, baths and ponds. Drowning occurs in the home, at beaches, in public and private swimming pools, when people are scuba diving, fishing or in boating mishaps. Drowning occurs for many different reasons, commonly: lack of supervision, poor water familiarisation, inadequate barriers and lack of cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and lifesaving skills among supervisors. In some instances alcohol and drug use are also associated.

The scope of the *Western Australian Water Safety Framework 2004 - 2007* is based on the prevention of drowning, near-drowning and related injuries, whilst not restricting people's participation in aquatic activities.

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Resources

Department of Health. (2004) *Western Australian water safety framework: 2004-2007*
A strategic framework for addressing drowning, near-drowning and related injury in Western Australia.
Perth, Western Australia: Western Australian Government.