Keeping New Settlers Safer In and Around Water

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A collaborative approach to water safety education

Auckland region is unique

• 1.4 million people (approx. 30% of NZ population)
• 37% born overseas
• 18.9 % Asian
• 14.4% Polynesian
• 3% ‘Other’

plus
• 2 coastlines
• 3 harbours
• 2 major estuaries

Statistics from NZ Census 2006
Drowning Statistics 2005-2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>New Zealand</th>
<th>Auckland</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>13%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pacific Island</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>‘Other’</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beach</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>32%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land based fishing</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immersion accidents</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>37%</td>
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Areas of work

- New Migrants
- Refugee Community
- International Students
- Tourists
New Settlers Water Safety Reference Group

• Established in response to the increase of new migrants drowning and being rescued
• Share expertise, ideas and resources
• To develop awareness, confidence and ability of New Settler communities to safely participate in water based activity
• To ensure effective distribution of appropriate information and resources

New Settlers Water Safety Reference Group

• New Settler Water Safety DVD
• Resources developed in various languages: Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Vietnamese, Arabic, Somali, Hindi, Farsi, Samoan, Tongan
**NZOC Refugee Swimming and Water Safety Project**

**Key features of the programme:**
- Transport
- Cultural values
- Learn to Swim pool lessons
- Water Safety classroom lessons
- First Aid component
- Physical activity
- Clothing

94 participants, 59 males and 34 females
- Largest ethnic groups were Somali and Burmese
- 92% exceeded their expectations in improving swimming skills
- 100% believed that they would be safer in the water
- 86.7% expressed they would swim more often
- Increase of first aid skills and knowledge
Muslim Women’s Swimming

- Two ladies’ only swimming nights running in Auckland
- One Muslim girls programme (13-18 years old)
- One programme has been running for 5 years.

Outcomes

- Wider benefits beyond health and wellbeing issues
- Increased confidence and awareness
- It continues to meet their needs for culturally appropriate, accessible and affordable physical activity
Whanau Nui for the Chinese Community

Results:

• 60 Children and 32 parents
• Participants from Chinese, Indian, Filipino and Burmese ethnicities
• 80% of parents realized that you must always supervise children near water vs. 14% pre-programme

Skills learnt by Children:
• 24% Swimming strokes
• 21% Water safety skills

Skills learnt by Parents:
• 33% Water safety skills and messages
• 26% Swimming strokes
Mandarin Marine VHF Radio Operator’s Course

• Marine VHF Radio course delivered in another language
• A Chinese Coastguard volunteer was contracted to deliver the course and translate the resources into Mandarin
• The need for boating safety was highlighted by the community

Results

• 25 enrolled, 17 attended and completed the course (including exam)
• Most participants had been in New Zealand for less than 2 years
• 25% owned their own boats, 41% crewed with others and mostly involved with powerboats
• Over half the participants (58%) thought the course and exam were extremely relevant and beneficial to their own personal boating
Regional Promotions

Community Events:
• Auckland Migrant Expo
• Chinese New Year Festival
• Korean Day Event
• Taiwanese Festival
• Auckland Lantern Festival
• Race Relations Day Event

Other Projects
• West Coast Rock Fishing Safety Project
• ESOL & International schools teaching kits and workshop for staff and tutors
• Water Safety talks to International Schools/Units & Adult Community education
• ‘Asian’ water safety research surveying the public at community events about their participation in aquatic activities
Building a water safety culture through education

Auckland Regional Water Safety Plan 2009 – 2012
www.watersafe.org.nz

References


Copy of the reports available in PDF format from www.watersafe.org.nz