
30 Years of Australian Swimming and Water Safety Education

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AUSTSWIM – The Australian Council For The Teaching of Swimming and Water Safety¹

Background/Introduction

To provide an overview of the changes to AUSTSWIM as an organisation over recent years including future directions AUSTSWIM is a not for profit organization whose mission is for every Australian will be taught to swim by an accredited AUSTSWIM teacher, enabling them to safely enjoy aquatic environments and activities.

AUSTSWIM has a strong philosophy that is founded on the belief that all Australians should have appropriate and relevant swimming and water safety skills and understand the principles and practices of water safety.

AUSTSWIM is a member of the National Water Safety Council and works in partnership with RLSSA, SLSA & Swimming Australia Ltd.

Overview

AUSTSWIM has been responsible for training swimming and water safety teachers in Australia for over 30 years. During that time there has been an evolution of programs, operations and course development. In the last decade AUSTSWIM has concentrated on consolidating the efforts and achievements to ensure it remains at the forefront of the field and has clear plans and directions for the future.

The past decade has seen the organisation go through a series of strategic planning sessions which have clarified its objectives and directions and highlighted the need to concentrate on core business. This has resulted in a much stronger, vibrant organisation, which is more focused on customer service and the development of the highest standards of resource development. This decision was rewarded with AUSTSWIM recently winning the TAFE and Vocational Education – Single Title Category in the 2009 Australian Education Publishing Awards for its new text Teaching Swimming and Water Safety. During this time of change, AUSTSWIM has learnt many lessons and inevitably modified its approach to change management.

This presentation will explain how the organisation has learnt from mistakes and evolved. This information will benefit organisations currently undertaking change or considering change in the near future.

AUSTSWIM is also continually looking at future direction and this session will also provide an insight into further developments as an organisation that will assist in strengthening the industry in the area of teaching swimming and water safety.

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