

AUSTSWIM – Providing quality training in any language and culture

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AUSTSWIM – The Australian Council for the Teaching of Swimming and Water Safety¹

Introduction

- Modify and deliver teacher training in a format that would develop high quality licenced AUSTSWIM Teachers in CALD communities
- The AUSTSWIM teacher of swimming and water safety training course that leads to AUSTSWIM Teacher License
- AUSTSWIM is a not for profit organisation whose mission is for every Australian to 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.

Objectives

The program was developed originally in South Australia to cater for the needs of Indigenous communities and differences in learning styles, English as another language and to provide autonomy for communities to develop swimming and water safety classes for their own communities. It was developed from a partnership between AUSTSWIM, the Indigenous Sport and Recreation Officer and community Elder, Active Communities and technical & Further Education.

Target

Community participation in the SA Indigenous focus group.

A flow-on effect with interest from a variety of CALD Australian communities.

Possible partnerships with Water Safety New Zealand for the Maori communities.

AUSTSWIM continues to also work in other international countries which will also benefit from this modified delivery model.

Methods

Consultation with South Australian Vocational Education Providers at the regional Technical & further Education Campus, Sport and Recreation Indigenous Field officers, Active Community Field Officers, and AUSTSWIM representatives a working group was formed to modify the theory component of the course for practical delivery while maintaining the accreditation guidelines.

The program has been modified to allow for practical delivery and competency assessment providing communities with AUSTSWIM Licenced Teachers while maintaining the integrity of the training and AUSTSWIM name.

The program has been over 12 months in development and implementation with resources as the final developmental stage.

Originally designed to aid Australian Indigenous Communities the training can be delivered to any CALD groups.

The first group of Indigenous trainee AUSTSWIM teachers has taught a group of Indigenous primary students over an eight week term with promising results including the positive interaction between students and cultural trainee AUSTSWIM teachers, finalising their practical teaching with the remote Yalata Community on the Nullabor Plains.

Results/Evaluation

The process has been one of continual development, assessment, evaluation of the program and the students understanding of the material. The research focus group has developed as swimming and water safety teachers and instructional styles used, their personal safety competencies and stroke development, and aerobic fitness has also been a measurable benefit of the training. A higher level of understanding of how the development of swimming skills benefits their general health and fitness, ability to improve other sports participation and more importantly how swimming ability and fitness can improve their personal safety in aquatic environments.

The interest from other CALD communities and the ability of the practical delivery to be replicated by other water safety groups and other sports has been an added benefit of the course modification and the trial group.

Conclusion

The practical delivery is an achievable delivery method that can be adapted for any community locally or globally. It relies on a process of visual and learning skills then micro teaching skills along with supervised teaching experience. There is no foreseeable reason why other courses cannot be delivered or adapted to a similar format, infants, adults, advanced stroke development, rescue awards, first aid, CPR.

AUSTSWIM adapting programs for individual communities and cultures.

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