

# **BIGGER, BETTER, SAFER AQUATICS INDUSTRY REPORT 2019**

Western Australia



**ROYAL LIFE SAVING**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



LEISURE INSTITUTE OF WA AQUATIC (INC.)



## CONTENTS

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Executive Summary .....	2
State of the Aquatics Industry .....	3
Workforce Profile .....	7
Injury at Public Pools .....	13
Safety Assessment Scores .....	17
Recommendations .....	24
Methods .....	26

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**Royal Life Saving WA is focused on reducing the impact of drowning and building water safe communities through innovative and evidence-informed policies, programs and services. The organisation believes that everyone can be a lifesaver and is committed to turning everyday people into everyday lifesavers.**

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**LIWA Aquatics is focused on supporting the WA aquatics industry by providing advocacy, accreditation and regular professional development opportunities to ensure a strong workforce and safe recreation venues for the community.**

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This report was prepared by the Royal Life Saving Society WA on behalf of the Leisure Institute of Western Australia (LIWA) Aquatics

## KEY CONTRIBUTORS

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

11.5M

.....  
VISITS RECORDED AT  
PUBLIC SWIMMING  
POOLS 2018-2019

18%

.....  
REDUCTION IN WATER  
USAGE AT PUBLIC  
POOLS 2018-2019

34.1

.....  
INJURIES RECORDED  
PER 100,000 VISITS  
2018-2019

95.96%

.....  
AVERAGE SAFETY  
ASSESSMENT SCORE  
2018-2019

\$302,741,800

THE AVERAGE VISIT TO A PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL GENERATES BENEFITS OF \$26.39 IN IMPROVED HEALTH OUTCOMES. IN 2018-2019, THE WA AQUATICS INDUSTRY CONTRIBUTED \$303M IN HEALTH BENEFITS TO THE WA COMMUNITY.



- ★ THE WA AQUATICS INDUSTRY EMPLOYED 4,152 PEOPLE IN 2018-2019
- ★ 1,818 NEW STAFF ENTERED THE INDUSTRY
- ★ THE WORKFORCE IS LARGELY CASUAL WITH 53% EMPLOYED ON A CASUAL BASIS

## INJURY SEVERITY

- ⊕ MINOR
- ⊕ MODERATE
- ⊕ MAJOR

## TREATMENT

- ⊕ BASIC FIRST AID
- 🏊 AQUATIC RESCUE
- 🏠 OXYGEN THERAPY

30

.....  
DROWNING INCIDENTS  
REPORTED 2018-2019



# STATE OF THE INDUSTRY

# 11.5M

VISITS RECORDED AT  
WA PUBLIC SWIMMING  
POOLS IN 2018/19

# 4.2

POOL VISITS RECORDED  
PER HEAD OF  
POPULATION

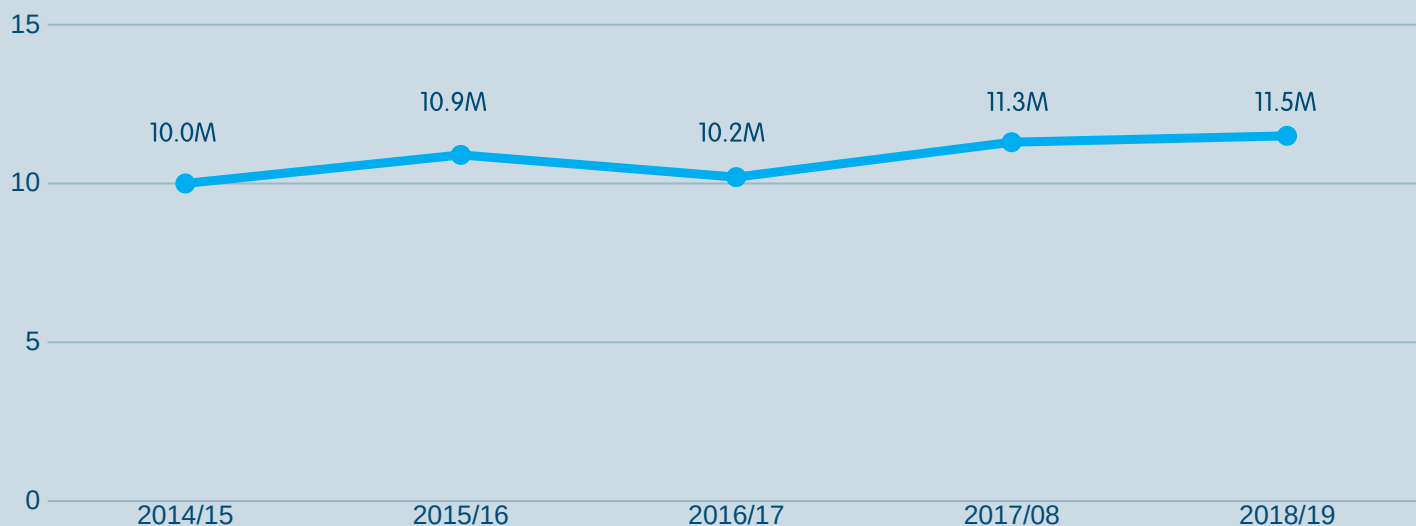
# \$303M

ECONOMIC BENEFIT  
FROM VISITS TO PUBLIC  
POOLS IN 2018/19

# 1.1%

INCREASE IN TOTAL  
POOL VISITS FROM  
2017/18

Total pool visits, 2014/15 to 2018/19



- ★ INCREASED POOL VISITS RECORDED IN ALL REGIONS EXCEPT FOR MID WEST AND PILBARA REGIONS IN 2018/19 WHICH DECREASED BY 1.78% AND 0.93% RESPECTIVELY.
- ★ GREATEST INCREASE IN POOL VISITS RECORDED IN KIMBERLEY REGION (5.0% FROM 2017/18)
- ★ VISITS PER HEAD OF POPULATION WERE SLIGHTLY HIGHER IN REGIONAL WA THAN IN THE PERTH METROPOLITAN AREA (4.7 VS 4.2/100,000)

## REGIONAL COMPARISON

REGION	TOTAL VISITS 2018-19	VISITS PER POPULATION	ECONOMIC BENEFIT
GOLDFIELDS	307,832	4.8/100,000	\$8.1M
GREAT SOUTHERN	314,128	5.1/100,000	\$8.3M
KIMBERLEY	162,421	3.8/100,000	\$4.2M
MID WEST	395,140	5.6/100,000	\$10.4M
PILBARA	385,748	5.4/100,000	\$10.2M
SOUTH WEST	762,717	4.2/100,000	\$20.1M
WHEATBELT	336,414	4.2/100,000	\$8.9M
METROPOLITAN PERTH	8,815,093	4.2/100,000	\$232.3M

## EXPENDITURE

# \$84.5M

TOTAL AQUATICS  
INDUSTRY EXPENDITURE  
IN 2018/19

# 4.1% ^

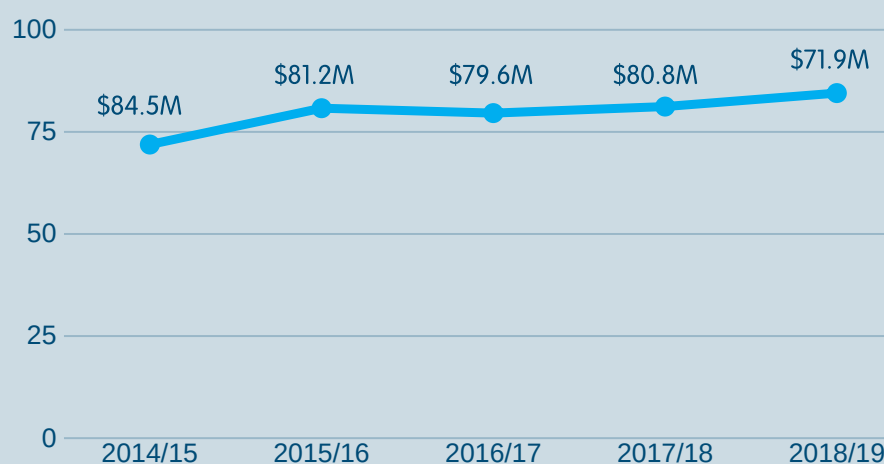
INCREASE IN  
EXPENDITURE FROM  
2017/18

# \$7.36

EXPENDITURE PER VISIT  
AT PUBLIC POOLS IN  
2018/19



Total pool expenditure, 2014/15 to 2018/19



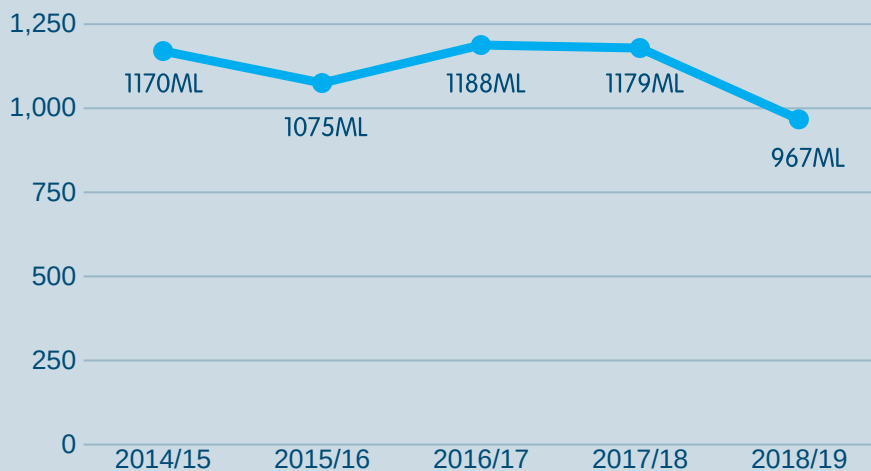
## REGIONAL COMPARISON

REGION	2018-19	EXPENDITURE PER POOL VISIT	ECONOMIC BENEFIT : EXPENDITURE*
GOLDFIELDS	\$3,372,538	\$11.0/100,000	2.41
GREAT SOUTHERN	\$2,508,807	\$8.0/100,000	3.30
KIMBERLEY	\$3,626,166	\$22.3/100,000	1.18
MID WEST	\$5,164,530	\$13.1/100,000	2.01
PILBARA	\$8,562,796	\$22.2/100,000	1.19
SOUTH WEST	\$8,153,216	\$10.7/100,000	2.47
WHEATBELT	\$5,093,598	\$15.1/100,000	1.74
METROPOLITAN PERTH	\$47,707,388	\$5.4/100,000	4.87

\*RATIO OF ECONOMIC BENEFIT COMPARED TO EXPENDITURE E.G. ECONOMIC BENEFIT OF PUBLIC POOL USE FOR THE GOLDFIELDS REGION IS 2.41 TIMES GREATER THAN THE EXPENDITURE

## WATER CONSUMPTION

Total water consumption, 2014/15 to 2018/19



**1,170ML**

**TOTAL WATER  
CONSUMPTION 2018/19**

**18%✓**


**INCREASE IN  
EXPENDITURE FROM  
2017/18**

## REGIONAL COMPARISON

REGION	2018/19	
GOLDFIELDS	45.5ML	✓
GREAT SOUTHERN	29.8ML	✓
KIMBERLEY	68.6ML	✓
MID WEST	101.5ML	✓

REGION	2018/19	
PILBARA	190.0ML	✓
SOUTH WEST	117.6ML	✓
WHEATBELT	173.5ML	✓
PERTH METROPOLITAN	558.0ML	✓



A photograph of a lifeguard from behind, wearing a red polo shirt with the word 'LIFEGUARD' printed in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the back. The lifeguard is standing at the edge of a swimming pool, with a blue lane line and orange and red buoys visible in the water. In the background, there are poolside buildings and a clear sky. A blue fanny pack is visible at the bottom of the frame.

**LIFEGUARD**

## **WORKFORCE PROFILE**

## OVERALL WORKFORCE



# 4,152

PEOPLE WERE EMPLOYED WITHIN THE AQUATICS INDUSTRY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA IN 2018/19

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA



53%



47%

< 18 YEARS	8%
18-24 YEARS	45%
25-34 YEARS	18%
35-44 YEARS	12%
45-54 YEARS	10%
55-64 YEARS	6%
65+ YEARS	1%



2% ABORIGINAL AND/OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER



21%



79%

53%

CASUAL

37%

PERMANENT

### AUSTRALIA



27%



73%

< 18 YEARS	3%
18-24 YEARS	19%
25-34 YEARS	15%
35-44 YEARS	19%
45-54 YEARS	23%
55-64 YEARS	17%
65+ YEARS	4%



2% ABORIGINAL AND/OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER



16%



84%

43%

CASUAL

47%

PERMANENT

\*10% OTHER

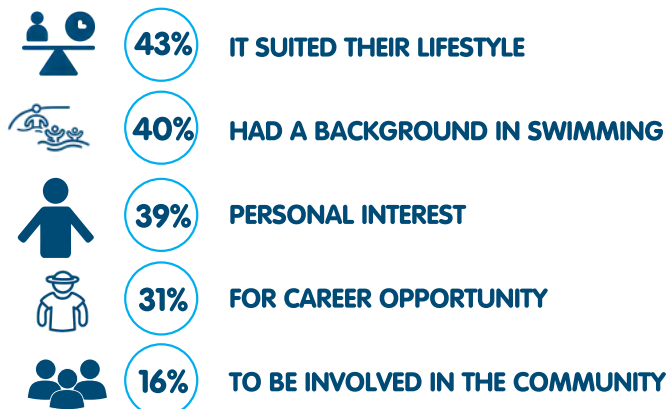


## THE AQUATIC WORKFORCE IS LARGELY LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS

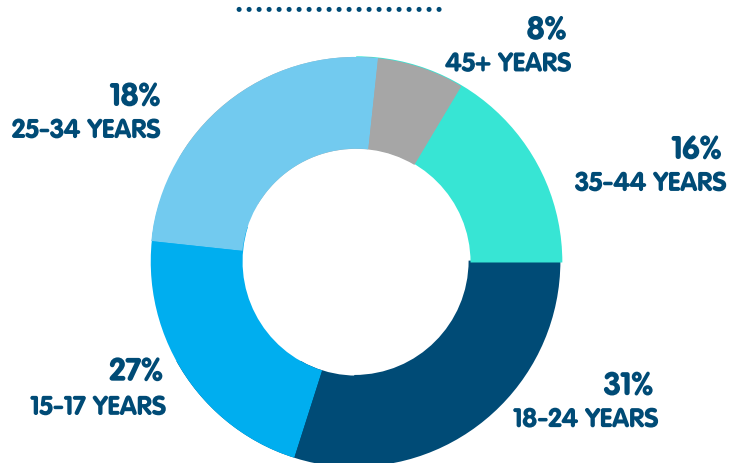
71%  
LIVE WITHIN 15 KMS OF WORKPLACE

48%  
LIVE WITHIN 15 MINS OF WORKPLACE

## REASONS THAT PEOPLE JOINED THE AQUATICS WORKFORCE



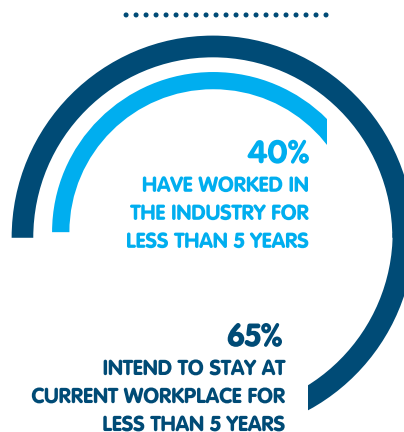
## HALF OF EMPLOYEES ENTERED THE WORKFORCE WHEN THEY WERE YOUNG ADULTS



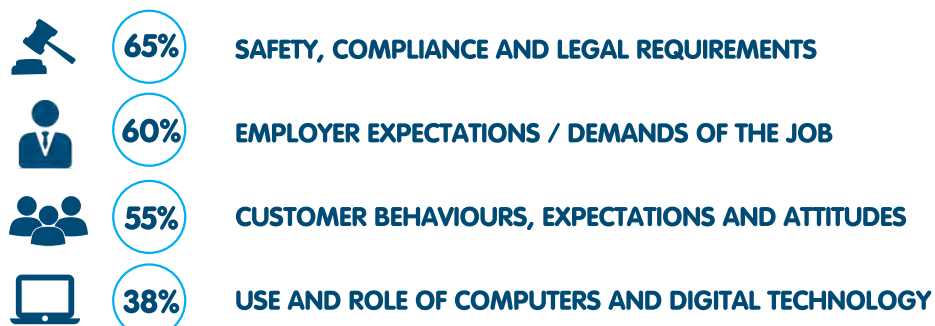
**47%** JUST UNDER HALF OF THE WORKFORCE  
HAVE OTHER EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE  
THE AQUATICS INDUSTRY



## THERE IS HIGH WORKFORCE TURNOVER WITHIN THE INDUSTRY



## OVERALL, 39% OF THE WORKFORCE BELIEVE THAT THERE HAS BEEN A LARGE OR VERY LARGE DEGREE OF CHANGE WITHIN THE INDUSTRY





## TECHNICAL POOL OPERATORS

462

TECHNICAL POOL  
OPERATORS  
ACCREDITED IN 2018/19

METRO PERTH = 247 (54%)  
REGIONAL WA = 215 (46%)

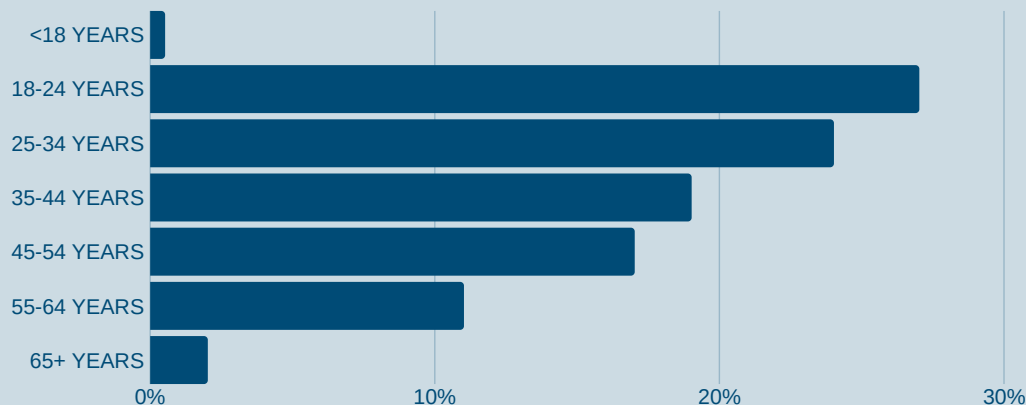
578

TECHNICAL POOL  
OPERATORS POSITIONS  
IN 2018/19

METRO PERTH = 307 (53%)  
REGIONAL WA = 201 (47%)



Technical Pool Operators by Age, 2018/19



36 YEARS

AVERAGE AGE OF  
TECHNICAL POOL  
OPERATORS IN 2018/19

17 - 71

AGES RANGED FROM 17  
TO 71 YEARS IN 2018/19



53%



47%

81%

OF TECHNICAL POOL OPERATORS BELIEVE  
THAT THE TRAINING ADEQUATELY  
PREPARED THEM FOR EMPLOYMENT

63%

BELIEVE THAT THE NUMBER OF QUALIFIED  
TECHNICAL POOL OPERATORS IN THEIR  
REGION IS INADEQUATE

50%

REPORTED IT WOULD DIFFICULT TO RECRUIT  
NEW STAFF TO FILL/COVER TECHNICAL  
POOL OPERATOR ROLES

TECHNICAL POOL OPERATORS ARE MOSTLY EMPLOYED IN PERMANENT POSITIONS

36%

CASUAL

64%

PERMANENT



## POOL LIFEGUARD

1,828

QUALIFIED POOL  
LIFEGUARDS IN 2018/19

METRO PERTH = 1,441 (79%)  
REGIONAL WA = 387 (21%)

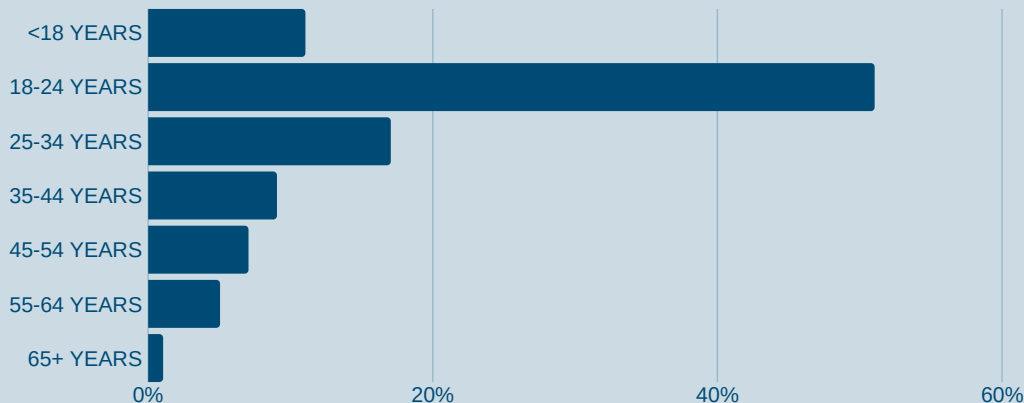
1,177

POOL LIFEGUARD  
POSITIONS IN 2018/19

METRO PERTH = 774 (66%)  
REGIONAL WA = 403 (34%)



Pool Lifeguards by Age, 2018/19



LACK OF QUALIFIED POOL  
LIFEGUARDS IN REGIONAL WA

27 YEARS

AVERAGE AGE OF POOL  
LIFEGUARDS IN 2018/19

13 - 75

AGES RANGED FROM 13  
TO 75 YEARS IN 2018/19



55%



45%



10% OF POOL LIFEGUARDS  
IDENTIFIED AS ABORIGINAL  
AND/OR TORRES STRAIT  
ISLANDER

72%

OF POOL LIFEGUARDS BELIEVE THAT THE  
TRAINING ADEQUATELY PREPARED THEM  
FOR EMPLOYMENT

66%

BELIEVE THAT THE NUMBER OF QUALIFIED  
POOL LIFEGUARDS IN THEIR REGION IS  
INADEQUATE

56%

REPORTED IT WOULD DIFFICULT TO RECRUIT  
NEW STAFF TO FILL/COVER POOL  
LIFEGUARD ROLES

POOL LIFEGUARDS ARE MOSTLY EMPLOYED IN CASUAL POSITIONS

84%

CASUAL

16%

PERMANENT



## SWIMMING INSTRUCTOR

4,660

QUALIFIED SWIMMING  
INSTRUCTORS IN  
2018/19

METRO PERTH = 3,515 (75%)  
REGIONAL WA = 1,145 (25%)

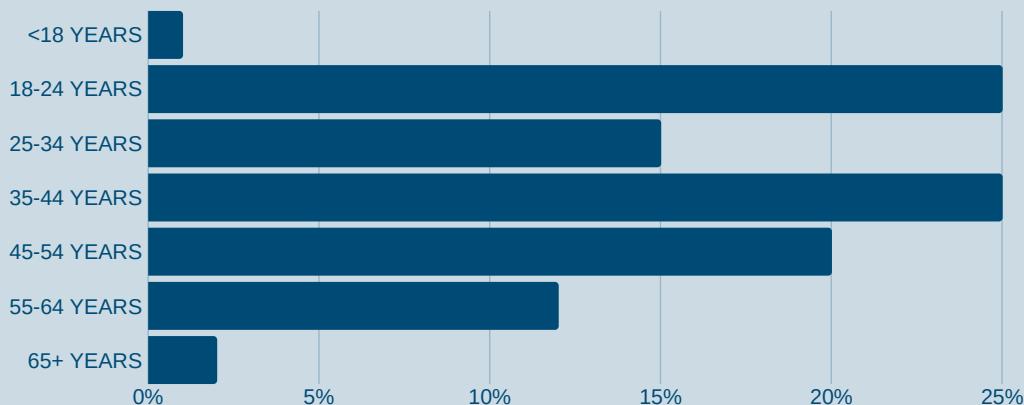
2,397

SWIMMING  
INSTRUCTOR POSITIONS  
IN 2018/19

METRO PERTH = 1,459 (61%)  
REGIONAL WA = 938 (39%)



Swimming Instructors by Age, 2018/19



47% OF SWIMMING INSTRUCTORS  
HAD BEEN EMPLOYED FOR < 5  
YEARS

22 YEARS

AVERAGE AGE OF  
SWIMMING  
INSTRUCTORS IN 2018/19

16 - 68

AGES RANGED FROM 16  
TO 68 YEARS IN 2018/19



11%



89%

53%

REPORTED IT WOULD DIFFICULT TO RECRUIT  
NEW STAFF TO FILL/COVER POOL  
SWIMMING INSTRUCTOR ROLES

50%

DON'T FEEL LIKE THEY HAVE ADEQUATE  
NUMBER OF SWIMMING INSTRUCTORS FOR  
THE NEXT 12 MONTHS



1.5% OF SWIMMING INSTRUCTORS  
IDENTIFIED AS ABORIGINAL AND/OR TORRES  
STRAIT ISLANDER



22% OF SWIMMING  
INSTRUCTORS WERE BORN  
OVERSEAS

SWIMMING INSTRUCTORS ARE MOSTLY EMPLOYED IN CASUAL POSITIONS

78%

CASUAL

22%

PERMANENT



## INJURIES AT PUBLIC POOLS

# 37

POOLS PROVIDED  
INJURY DATA IN  
2018-19

# 3,914

INJURIES RECORDED AT  
PUBLIC SWIMMING  
POOLS IN 2018-19

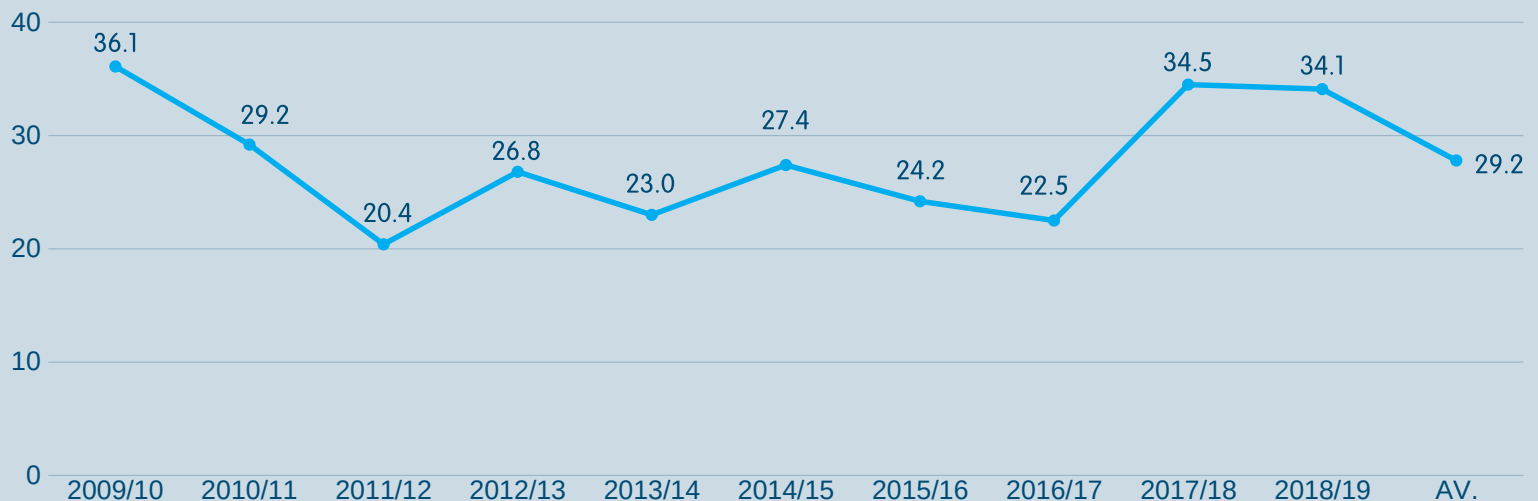
# 34.1

INJURIES RECORDED  
PER 100,000 VISITS  
2018-2019

# 5.3% ✓

DECREASE IN INJURY  
RATE OVER LAST TEN  
YEARS

Injury Rate, 2009/10 to 2018/19



## 53.4%



## 46.6%

RISK OF INJURY AT PUBLIC  
SWIMMING POOLS WAS SIMILAR  
FOR MALES AND FEMALES

RATES OF INJURY WERE 2.2 TIMES GREATER IN REGIONAL AND REMOTE AREAS (65.6/100,000 VISITS; 40%) THAN IN THE PERTH METROPOLITAN AREA (29.8/100,000; 60%)



CHILDREN 5-14 YEARS WERE AT THE  
GREATEST RISK OF INJURY AT  
PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS



OLDER ADULTS RECORDED LOWEST  
INJURY RATE OF ANY AGE GROUP

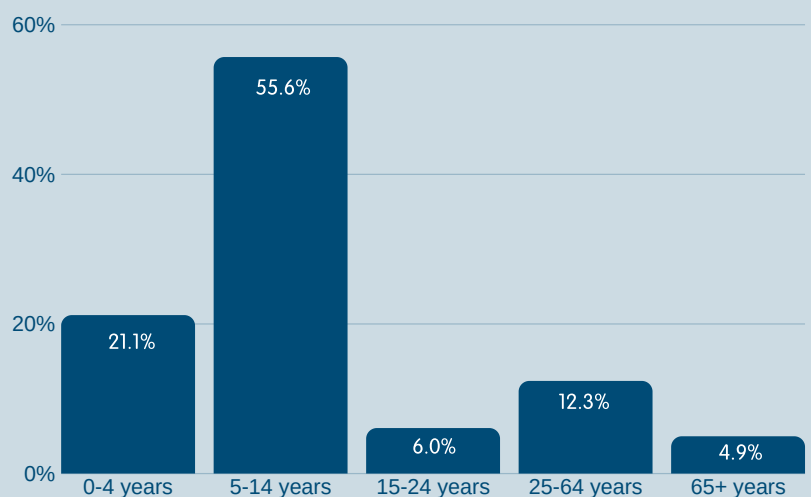


THE PROPORTION OF INJURIES  
OCCURRING IN TODDLERS 0-4  
YEARS ALMOST DOUBLED FROM  
2017/18



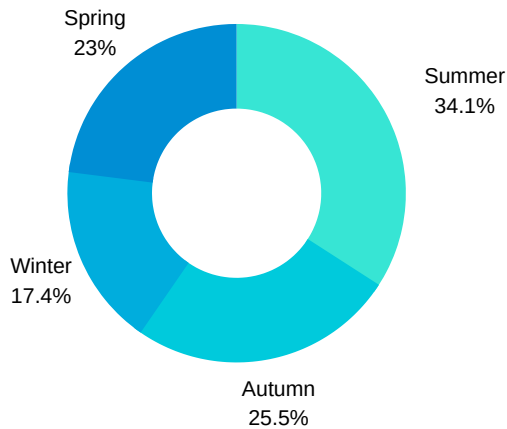
MAJORITY OF MAJOR INCIDENTS  
INVOLVED PEOPLE AGED 65+ YEARS

Proportion of injuries by age group, 2018/19

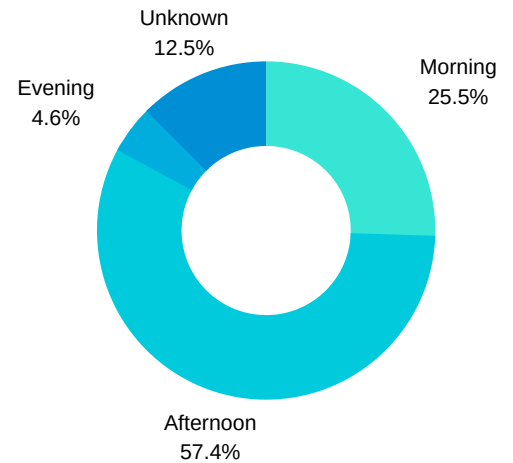


## SEASON

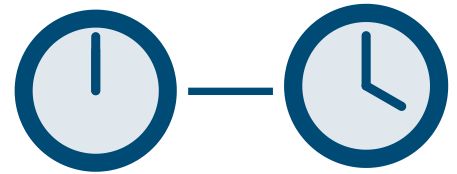
## TIME OF DAY



### WHEN + WHERE DROWNING OCCURS



INJURIES WERE MOST LIKELY TO OCCUR DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS BETWEEN 12-4PM (41.3%)



**90.0%**

OF INJURIES WERE MINOR REQUIRING ONLY BASIC FIRST AID

**7.6%**

OF INJURIES WERE OF MODERATE SEVERITY

**2.4%**

OF INJURIES WERE MAJOR REQUIRING EMERGENCY SERVICES TO ATTEND




**30**

DROWNING (FATAL AND NON-FATAL) RECORDED

### TOP 3 INCIDENTS

- 01 LOW LEVEL FALLS (28.6%)
- 02 UNINTENTIONAL COLLISIONS (19.4%)
- 03 CUTTING/PIERCING OBJECTS (16.0%)

### TOP 3 INJURIES

-  SUPERFICIAL WOUNDS (33.1%)
-  OPEN WOUNDS/LACERATIONS (18.4%)
-  BLOW TO THE HEAD (8.2%)

**9.0%**

OF INJURIES OCCURRED DURING A STRUCTURED EVENT SUCH AS SWIMMING LESSONS OR SWIMMING CARNIVAL



## TOP 3 LOCATIONS

01 LEISURE/LEARN TO SWIM POOL (25.2%)

02 LAP POOL (20.7%)

03 WATER SLIDE AREA (16.9%)

92%

OF INJURIES OCCURRED  
AT AQUATIC LOCATIONS  
IN THE CENTRE

94%

OF INJURIES REQUIRED  
FIRST AID TREATMENT



- 32.8% OF INJURIES WERE FIRST RECOGNISED BY A LIFEGUARD/AQUATIC STAFF MEMBER
- 97.5% OF MAJOR INJURIES WERE FIRST RECOGNISED BY A LIFEGUARD/AQUATIC STAFF MEMBER
- THE MAJORITY WERE RECOGNISED BY A PATRON (47.6%) AND 19.6% WERE SELF-REPORTED.



1.8%  
AMBULANCE  
CALLED



4.9%  
OXYGEN  
REQUIRED



2.5%  
AQUATIC  
RESCUE



79.3%  
BASIC FIRST  
AID

19.2%

OF AQUATIC INDUSTRY EMPLOYEES REPORTED THEY HAD SUSTAINED AN INJURY WHILE  
AT WORK WITH THE MAJORITY (76.0%) UNABLE TO RETURN TO WORK FOR 1-7 DAYS





# **SAFETY ASSESSMENT SCORES**

# 43

SAFETY ASSESSMENTS  
WERE COMPLETED IN  
2018-19

# 12

INDIVIDUAL  
COMPONENTS WERE  
ASSESSED

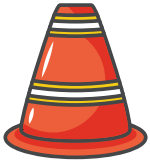
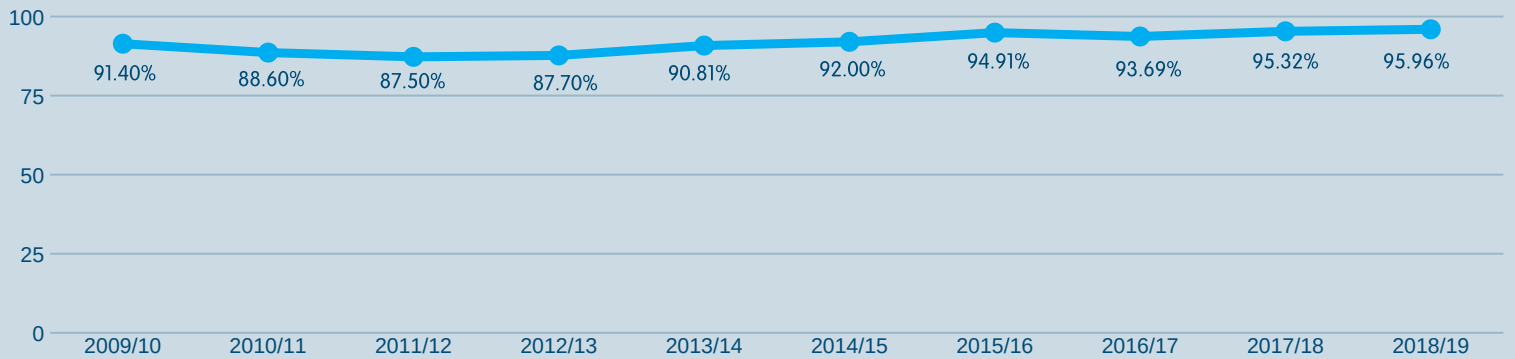
# 95.96%

AVERAGE SAFETY  
SCORE IN 2018-19

# 65.1%

OF POOLS INCREASED THEIR  
SAFETY SCORE FROM  
PREVIOUS ASSESSMENT

Average Safety Assessment Scores, 2009/10 to 2018/19



- SAFETY SCORES RANGED FROM 86.96% TO 100.00%, WITH 39.5% SCORING BELOW THE STATE AVERAGE
- ON AVERAGE, SAFETY SCORES HAVE INCREASED BY 5.23% OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS

## METROPOLITAN PERTH

### 2018-19

- 13 SAFETY ASSESSMENTS CONDUCTED
- AVERAGE SAFETY SCORE - 97.51%

### MOST RECENT SCORE

- OVERALL SAFETY SCORE - 96.54%
- 5.7% (N=2) SCORED 80-89.99%
- 94.3% (N=33) SCORED 90-100%

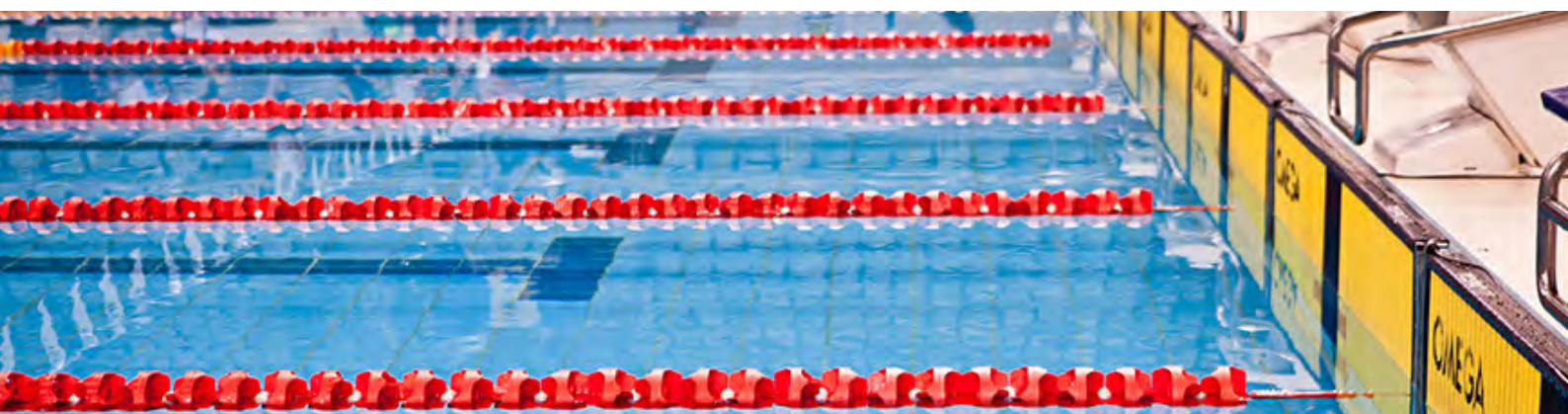
## REGIONAL WA

### 2018-19

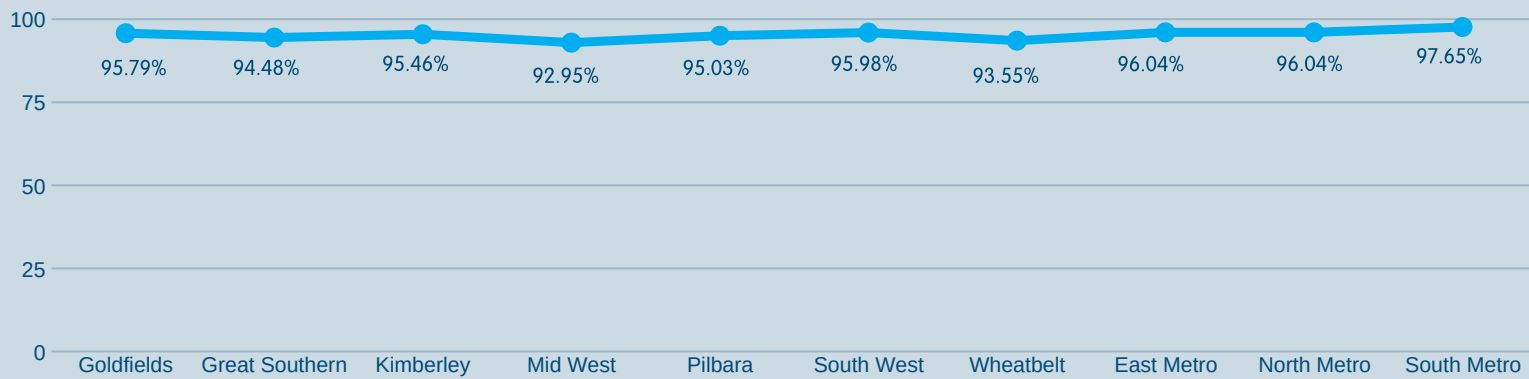
- 30 SAFETY ASSESSMENTS CONDUCTED
- AVERAGE SAFETY SCORE - 95.10%

### MOST RECENT SCORE

- OVERALL SAFETY SCORE - 94.34%
- 12.5% (N=12) SCORED 80-89.99%
- 87.5% (N=84) SCORED 90-100%



#### Most recent safety score by region



# 94.7%

OF PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS  
(N=124) HAVE HAD A SAFETY  
ASSESSMENT IN THE PAST FIVE  
YEARS

# 10.7%

PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS  
(N=14) HAVE HAD A SAFETY  
ASSESSMENT IN THE PAST TWO  
YEARS

# 7.7% ✓

AVERAGE SAFETY SCORES  
DECREASE BY 7.7% FROM 1-2  
YEARS TO 5-6 YEARS BETWEEN  
ASSESSMENT



PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS IN THE PERTH METROPOLITAN AREA HAVE A HIGHER AVERAGE SAFETY SCORE (96.54) COMPARED TO THOSE IN REGIONAL AREAS OF WA (94.34). HOWEVER, THIS GAP HAS DECREASED FROM 2017-18 BY 0.7%

## COMPONENT SCORES

ASSESSMENT COMPONENT	RANK	2018-2019	MOST RECENT
Administration	# 7	96.69%	96.52%
Design	# 10	96.91%	95.16%
Circulation and Treatment	# 5	98.73%	98.35%
Chemical safety	# 12	86.39%	86.02%
Water Quality	# 4	99.46%	98.59%
Qualifications	# 2	99.19%	98.97%
General Operation	# 9	95.89%	95.38%
Special Features	# 11	94.92%	92.36%
Spa Pools	# 3	99.33%	98.74%
Water Slides	# 8	96.22%	96.17%
Hydrotherapy	# 1	100.0%	100.0%
Spray Park	# 6	97.62%	97.40%

## INDIVIDUAL COMPONENT SCORES

Average pass rates for individual component criteria that DID NOT have 100% pass rate have been included in the tables below. Where there is an \*\*\* it means that the score was 100%.

1. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (11 POINTS)		
	METROPOLITAN	REGIONAL
Does the centre have a Department of Health 'permit to operate' as a Group 1 facility?	***	96.7%
Does the centre have a document site plan?	***	90.0%
Does the centre have a start of season opening protocol?	***	88.5%
Does the centre have an end of season closing protocol?	***	98.5%
Does management service, test and record equipment (oxygen, breathing apparatus, emergency lighting, electrical equipment, fire extinguishers)?	***	96.7%
Is there an appropriate agreement/contract for all hirers of all or parts of the facility?	***	90.0%

2. DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION (46 POINTS)		
	METROPOLITAN	REGIONAL
Is the pool design, fittings and fixtures free of obstructions that could cause a patron to become entrapped or injured?	92.3%	***
Are there sufficient depth markers (max and min depth)?	***	96.7%
Are depth markers clearly visible from within the pool (where sides are > 125mm)?	83.3%	82.8%
Is there sufficient signage identifying deep water (>1.8m) and shallow water, particularly at pool entry points?	76.9%	66.7%
In water <1.8m in depth is "Do Not Dive" signage visible when entering the water body?	84.6%	86.7%
Is signage present that encourages parental supervision in appropriate areas?	***	90.0%
Are aquatic facilities without lighting provided with signage at all access points stating "no use of facility allowed after dark?"	***	83.3%
Do steps provided for entry/exit to pools have handrails that conform to access standards?	***	96.7%
Are emergency exit signs clear in any lighting conditions?	61.5%	63.3%
Is there a designated first aid room or area of appropriate size and configuration?	***	96.7%
Is the first aid room easily identified with standard signage?	92.3%	***

### 3. CIRCULATION AND WATER TREATMENT (26 POINTS)

	METROPOLITAN	REGIONAL
Is pipe work clearly identified to indicate flow direction and contents of the pipe?	76.9%	86.2%
Is the facility installed with an operational automatic dosing system?	***	96.4%
Are staff involved in entering the balance tank trained in correct procedures appropriate for confined spaces?	***	88.2%

### 4. CHEMICAL SAFETY (20 POINTS)

	METROPOLITAN	REGIONAL
Has a manifest listing all types and max quantities of each chemical stored been developed and stored in a suitable, remote location?	92.3%	76.7%
Has a risk assessment been conducted on the storage and handling of chlorine gas cylinders?	80.0%	33.3%
Is the gas leak detection system with audible and visual alarms regularly tested?	***	66.7%
Based on the storage factor and quantities of dangerous goods stored on the premises, has binding been installed and is it sufficient enough to retain a spill or leak?	***	89.3%
Is a dump shower and eyewash provided immediately outside the chemical handling and storage area (and regularly tested)?	***	90.0%
Are all pipes, valves and pumps controlling water and chemical feeds clearly labelled to promote correct operation?	84.6%	53.3%
Is signage complying with AS1319, in plant rooms and chemical handling areas promoting the use of PPE displayed?	84.6%	93.3%
Is signage complying with AS1319, including restricted access and prohibiting smoking displayed at entrances to and inside the plan room and chemical storage areas?	92.3%	86.7%
Are all chemical storage areas clearly labelled?	92.3%	90.0%
Are general HazChem signs posted at entries to the facility?	84.6%	76.7%
Depending on type of chemical storage (package goods or bulk), is the facility correctly placarded?	92.3%	86.7%
Does the plant room have storage and delivery procedures for hazardous substances stored on site?	76.9%	76.7%

### 5. WATER QUALITY AND TESTING (10 POINTS)

	METROPOLITAN	REGIONAL
Is cyanuric acid maintained at a level of 30-50mg/L?	***	93.3%
Is water balance regularly monitored?	***	96.7%
Does the centre have a dosing procedure for winterising the water body?	***	95.8%

## 6. QUALIFICATIONS (3 POINTS)

	METROPOLITAN	REGIONAL
Is there evidence that the pool operators who are responsible for the facilities operation have and maintain LIWA accreditation?	***	96.7%

## 7. GENERAL SANITATION AND OPERATION (25 POINTS)

	METROPOLITAN	REGIONAL
Do lifeguards use Watch Around Water resources and strategies to encourage parental supervision?	***	83.3%
Has a scanning strategy been developed?	91.7%	***
Are sufficient emergency methods of communication available?	***	96.7%
Is the Operations Manual facility-specific?	***	96.7%
Is the Operations Manual regularly reviewed?	***	93.3%
Has an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) that includes sections for different scenarios and locations been developed?	***	90.0%
Have all parts of the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) been practised in the past 12 months?	92.3%	70.0%
Has an evacuation kit been prepared?	92.3%	***
Are instructors (and program leaders) trained in the Emergency Action Plan (EAP)?	91.7%	93.1%
Is there a designated first aid room or area of appropriate size and Is a suitable hire agreement in place for external program organisers??	***	92.9%

## 8. SPECIAL FEATURE POOL (43 POINTS)

	METROPOLITAN	REGIONAL
Has the manufacturer provided a user manual and certification regarding design and use of inflatable device (training and OHS)?	***	93.1%
Has the centre completed a risk assessment of the device and its use?	87.5%	82.8%
Is a documented inspection process in place for the inflatable equipment?	***	89.7%
Has the centre developed operational procedures for an evacuation due to deflation, patron limits, environmental conditions, dress code and activity controls?	***	71.4%
Is specific padding provided at the entry point of stepping onto the inflatable?	***	87.5%
Are the inflatable device 'rules of play' displayed at or near to the point of entry?	***	96.4%

## 9. SPA POOL (16 POINTS)

	METROPOLITAN	REGIONAL
Is there an emergency stop button, which switches off all spa pool pumps, blowers and heaters provided within 3m of the spa, visible at all times and clearly identifiable?	***	50.0%

## 10. WATER SLIDE (14 POINTS)

	METROPOLITAN	REGIONAL
Has the builder/designer of the slide provided a certification regarding the design, angle of descent, speed and material used?	***	40.0%
Is the maximum loading on the entire structure known and sign posted?	***	50.0%

## 11. HYDROTHERAPY POOL (4 POINTS)

Public swimming pools scored 100.0% for all individual components included within the Hydrotherapy Pools section of the safety assessment in 2018-19.

## 12. WATER SPRAY GROUNDS (19 POINTS)

	METROPOLITAN	REGIONAL
Is safety signage prominently displayed for users?	66.7%	***





## RECOMMENDATIONS

## RECOMMENDATIONS



### PROMOTE BENEFITS OF REGULAR USE OF PUBLIC POOLS

Public swimming pools generate significant health and economic benefits for the WA community as a result of increased physical activity. Given the significant annual investment in these facilities, better promotion is needed to demonstrate their value within the broader community and encourage increased participation.



### ENCOURAGE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES

Efforts to improve operational efficiencies in water consumption and carbon emissions should be encouraged to reduce and improve the impact the aquatics industry has on the environment. Not only will this reduce expenditure, but will also contribute towards creating greater environmental sustainability.



### DEVELOP LOCAL WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS IN REGIONAL WA

To meet demand and successfully deliver programs, strategies to recruit local community members into the aquatic workforce are needed. This is particularly important in regional WA where programs are often cancelled due to a lack of qualified staff and where public pools are an integral part of the community.



### IMPROVE WORKFORCE DIVERSITY

Continued efforts to work towards creating a more diverse aquatic industry workforce to promote inclusion, particularly amongst marginalised groups. This will encourage greater participation, facilitate greater understanding of community needs, encourage innovation and ensure programs/services continue to meet community needs and expectations.



### CONTINUE EFFORTS TO REDUCE CHILD INJURY

Children under 14 years remain at the greatest risk of injury at public swimming pools. Strategies to promote constant adult supervision such as the Watch Around Water program should be continued. In addition, prevention and early intervention strategies should be put in place to either remove the hazard or change patron behaviour to reduce injury risk.



### IMPROVE REPORTING OF MAJOR INCIDENTS

Better reporting processes for major incidents occurring at public swimming pools is needed to ensure this information is captured and used to inform staff training and industry education. The development of a central database of major incidents and/or consistent reporting to lead industry groups should be considered.



### FOCUS ON CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT OF SAFETY

Safety scores at public swimming pools continue to increase, however there is a need to encourage continual improvements in this area. Strategies to provide greater levels of safety assessment such as mystery shopper programs and emergency response scenarios should be developed and trialled to facilitate ongoing improvements.



## METHODS

This report includes data from WA public swimming pools from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019. Data was collected using the following strategies:

- State of the Industry - data collected via an online survey promoted through email. Additional data relating to water usage was collected direct from the Water Corporation
- Aquatic Workforce - current staffing numbers were collected via an online survey with additional data relating to the number of qualified staff collected direct from AUSTSWIM, LIWA Aquatics and Royal Life Saving Society WA
- Injuries at Public Pools - data collected from aquatic centres via online survey, provision of own databases and/or providing copies of individual injury reports
- Safety Assessment Scores - data collected through safety assessment reports completed by qualified Royal Life Saving WA staff

34%

OF PUBLIC SWIMMING  
POOLS PARTICIPATED  
IN THE RESEARCH

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### PARTNERS AND CONTRIBUTORS:

- AUSTSWIM
- Water Corporation
- Local Government Insurance Service

### AQUATIC FACILITIES:

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aqualife Centre</li><li>• Balga Leisurepark</li><li>• Bay of Isles Leisure Centre</li><li>• Bayswater Waves</li><li>• Beatty Park Leisure Centre</li><li>• Bidyadanga Swimming Pool</li><li>• Bilgoman Aquatic Centre</li><li>• Bold Park Aquatic Centre</li><li>• Burringurrah Swimming Pool</li><li>• Cannington Leisureplex</li><li>• Carnarvon Aquatic Centre</li><li>• Cockburn ARC</li><li>• Coorow Swimming Pool</li><li>• Craigie Leisure Centre</li><li>• Donnybrook Recreation Centre</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eneabba Swimming Pool</li><li>• Fitzroy Crossing Swimming Pool</li><li>• Fremantle Leisure Centre</li><li>• Gnowangerup Swimming Pool</li><li>• Hyden Swimming Pool</li><li>• Kalamunda Water Park</li><li>• Kojonup Swimming Pool</li><li>• Kulin Aquatic Centre</li><li>• Leonora Aquatic Centre</li><li>• Mandurah Aquatic Centre</li><li>• Merredin Swimming Pool</li><li>• Moora Swimming Pool</li><li>• Mt Barker Swimming Pool</li><li>• Mt Magnet Swimming Pool</li><li>• Mullewa Swimming Pool</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Murray Leisure Centre</li><li>• Naremburn Aquatic Centre</li><li>• Northam Swimming Pool</li><li>• Onslow Aquatic Centre</li><li>• Paltridge Swimming Pool</li><li>• Perenjori Aquatic Centre</li><li>• Riverton Leisureplex</li><li>• Rockingham Aquatic Centre</li><li>• Southern Cross Swimming Pool</li><li>• Terry Tyzack Aquatic Centre</li><li>• Wanneroo Aquamotion</li><li>• Warmun Swimming Pool</li><li>• Wiluna Swimming Pool</li><li>• Wickpin Swimming Pool</li><li>• Yandeyarra Swimming Pool</li></ul> |
|---|---|--|



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## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Call:** (08) 9383 8200

**Email:** [info@royallifesavingwa.com.au](mailto:info@royallifesavingwa.com.au)

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