

Creating currents



Lifesaving
education programs

Extension for be aware and be prepared

Learn how currents work by creating a current in the water. Participants will observe the motion of the water as they move forwards, backwards and stand still.

Warning sign

- Share this sign with students and discuss the meaning of it (Hazard – rip currents in this area)



- 1 Find a shallow area of water that participants can enter and stand at mid-calf depth in a circle.
- 2 Instruct participants to slowly walk around in a clockwise direction for about 10 steps, then stop. Observe what happens to the water while they are walking, and what happens when they stop walking.
- 3 Now ask participants to walk back in the opposite direction (anti-clockwise) around the circle, stopping, starting, changing direction each time.
- 4 Ask the following questions:
 - What happened to the water when the group was still?
 - What happened when we moved? (fast/ slow)
 - What made a stronger current? What made a gentler current?
 - What happened when we stopped/ started/ changed direction?
 - How does this relate to currents?