



**THE HON PETER DUTTON MP  
MINISTER FOR HEALTH  
MINISTER FOR SPORT**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

30 September 2014

**Government Moves to Cut Drowning Deaths**

With a staggering 266 people dying in Australian waterways last year, the Australian Government has stepped up its efforts to reduce the number of drowning deaths in Australian waterways.

The Australian Government is providing \$4 million across five years to the Royal Life Saving Society Australia – part of a \$15 million package to cut drowning deaths across the nation.

The Minister for Health and Minister for Sport Peter Dutton announced the funding while launching the Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report 2014 at Parliament House today.

The \$4 million to the Royal Life Saving Society Australia is aimed at preventing drowning in inland waterways.

“Through this latest funding the Royal Life Saving Society Australia can continue to develop and build the programmes that will help to save lives,” Mr Dutton said.

The Drowning Report, produced by the Royal Life Saving Society Australia, highlights the factors that have contributed to drowning deaths across Australia from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.

“It is important to understand not all drowning deaths happen at a beach or in a pool,” Mr Dutton said.

“Thirty nine per cent of all drowning deaths occurred in inland waterways – rivers, lakes and dams.

“The programmes administered through the Royal Life Saving Society Australia focus on these waterways and known black spots throughout Australia and will help to prevent drowning deaths.”

This funding is part of the Government’s coordinated approach to water safety and working with leading bodies Surf Life Saving Australia, AUSTSWIM, Laurie Lawrence and the Royal Life Saving Society – Australia.

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