

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Aquatic Regional Champions Project in South Australia to Raise Water Safety Awareness

With the support and funding of Office of Recreation and Sport, the AUSTSWIM in collaboration with DECS Swimming and Aquatics Units has been able to develop a Regional Champions Project. This project aims to address previously identified shortages of swimming instructors in Regional areas by developing a team of Regional "Champions" that will assist in engaging the local communities on matters relating to swimming and water safety.

Long term aims are;

- To increase availability of AUSTSWIM accredited teachers in all regional areas to meet the employment needs of DECD, VACSWIM and aquatic facilities.
- Provide more opportunities for people to attend AUSTSWIM accredited training in regional and remote areas.
- Ensure that all current and potential learn to swim teachers have the opportunity to attend AUSTSWIM courses presented by local presenters who have an intrinsic understanding of local swimming and water safety issues.
- Provide more opportunities for people to attend other industry training.
- Ensure active swimming and water safety teachers have the opportunity to participate in professional development opportunities
- Raise community awareness about the importance of swimming and water safety education for all ages.

The nine Regional Champions, will work within their local area, and collaboratively cover the South Australian Regions of Limestone coast, Murray//Mallee, Eyre and Western region, Mid north and Yorke, Fleurieu and Riverland working closely with the community, schools and colleges on matters relating to swimming and water safety.

The project is currently funded for 16 months until June 2012, but by establishing the regional Champions there is an ability to sustain the project after this.

For further information contact

Julie Wilson
AUSTSWIM - SA Business Centre
08 8354 0873
jwilson@austswim.com.au

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