



MEDIA RELEASE

RE: Making waves in culturally diverse communities

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AUSTSWIM LIMITED

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of Swimming and Water Safety
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Making waves in culturally diverse communities

The ripples created in the pool at a recent AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety course are set to have a tidal wave of effect in CALD communities in Sydney.

Ten people from south-western Sydney CALD communities took part in the course, which was organised by AUSTSWIM with support from the Bankstown City Council.

AUSTSWIM presenter Maureen Summerhayes said it was important to encourage immigrants and refugees to understand the value of swimming as a skill for life.

"It also helps with cultural education of the Australian way of life as well as improving what they are doing within the community," Maureen said.

Participants eagerly engaged in all aspects of the two-day course.

Sayed Barkat Hussainzada is an Orthoptic student, community ambassador, youth coordinator and actor who left Afghanistan when he was five.

"I live in community where many who have come from different countries are not aware of the dangers of swimming and have no knowledge of water safety," Sayed said.

"The course really enlightened me... I am very motivated having learnt the latest skills set and new insightful contents about teaching swimming skills to contribute in my community projects... I gain my sense of accomplishment by helping others reach their full potential, having that sort of impact over people is an amazing reward that would not be possible without this course."

The sentiments were echoed by Australian-born Muslim participant Anisa Buckley.

"I am passionate about making Muslim communities - both those born here and new arrivals - aware of water safety issues," Anisa said. "I am keen to teach young children and Muslim women survival skills in and around water, as well as share with them the enjoyment of being able to swim.

"Now that Muslim women have a range of modest swimwear available to them, they have greater access to swimming as a leisure or sporting activity."

AUSTSWIM, which (in a world-first) has gained ISO 17024 accreditation for its teacher training programs, provides the only fully integrated and internationally accredited swimming and water safety training in Australia.

There's more to water safety than swimming

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