

## Royal Life Saving Society

The Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) has been saving lives for over 125 years. Today, the RLSS encompasses thousands of volunteers and millions of lifesavers in 33 Member Branches working to eliminate drowning among the Commonwealth's 2.2 billion people.

The RLSS is a global leader and partner in the delivery of water safety education and water rescue and resuscitation training.

The Society provides expertise in the development of community-based drowning prevention strategies, the design of lifesaving education programmes, and the establishment of aquatic safety standards.



Working to eliminate drowning in the Commonwealth



## Contact Us

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**A PROUD MEMBER OF THE  
ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY**



## RLSS New Zealand

We believe that anyone can be a lifesaver. Lifesavers are everywhere in the community. They can be teachers, students, mums, dads, firemen, plumbers or accountants. They don't always wear a uniform, but they can, and do, save lives.

The Royal Life Saving Society New Zealand (RLSSNZ) is dedicated to assisting everyday people in learning how to be everyday community lifesavers. We achieve this through:

- Education
- Health promotion
- Sport and participation
- Community development
- Training
- Risk management
- Research



## The Global Drowning Problem

Drowning is one of the biggest causes of preventable death worldwide. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates 235,000 people drown each year. Because of the difficulty in collecting complete data, WHO acknowledges that the actual drowning death toll could be four or five times higher than its estimate.

WHO identifies drowning as one of the 10 leading causes of death for children and young people, and calls for a global strategic drowning prevention effort and substantial scaling up of resources to reduce the intolerable death toll.

The Global Report on Drowning calls for both global and local communities to work together to introduce strategies aimed at promoting water safety and drowning prevention.



The RLSSNZ has been delivering training in lifesaving and survival skills for over 100 years. This is achieved through a series of training programmes which enable members to achieve awards at various levels with a focus on water safety and drowning prevention for all age groups.

Not only do students learn practical swimming, personal survival and basic rescue skills, they learn to understand, interpret, judge, and apply knowledge in these areas in a variety of settings. A combination of practical skills and knowledge in water safety is the best chance when dealing with an emergency situation.

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**There needs to be much more national and international attention focused on drowning, given the limited data available on its true scale and the heavy toll it takes on families, communities and economies**

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Global Report on Drowning—Preventing a Leading Killer ,  
World Health Organization