

<FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE>

WATER SAFETY REMINDER IN TIME FOR SUMMER

Wednesday 28 November, 2018

South Australians are being reminded of the need to take responsibility for their own safety in and around water as we approach the summer season.

The message comes ahead of a 'Summer Water Safety Promotion' coordinated by the South Australian Water Safety Committee in Rundle Mall tomorrow, (Thursday 29 November). The promotion will see a range of Government and non-Government organisations coming together between 10.00am and 2.00pm in Gawler Place, to promote various aspects of water safety.

Figures released by Royal Life Saving in the most recent National Drowning Report show that 15 people died as a result of drowning in South Australia between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2018, the same number as the previous year.

Of those, 60% were male, while 40% were people aged 55 years and older.

With regards to locations, 53% of those drowning fatalities in South Australia were at a beach, in the ocean or in a river or creek, while 13% were at a swimming pool.

According to the Executive Officer of the SA Water Safety Committee Mr Darryl Wright, there are some high level messages that people should consider to ensure their safety around water. These include:

- Constantly keep watch over children, including when at parks and reserves with ponds
- Where possible, swim at patrolled beaches and never swim alone
- Ensure your child participates in a water safety program
- Alcohol and drugs may adversely affect your swimming ability and judgement
- Wear a life jacket when boating
- Observe warning signs, take responsibility for your own safety and be considerate of your own ability

To assist with the promotion, **Olympic swimming Gold Medallist and water safety advocate Kyle Chalmers will be on hand between 10.30 and 11.30 a.m. to meet members of the public.**

"I learnt to swim as a young boy and obviously water safety is something that is close to my heart. I'm pleased to be in a position to assist with raising awareness of the risk of drowning, and promote actions that people can take to ensure their safety" Mr Chalmers said.

Members of the media are invited to attend. No formal media conference is planned.

Media enquiries: Darryl Wright, Executive Officer, SA Water Safety Committee, on 0409 286 487.