MULTICULTURAL SWIMMING PROGRAM

DOONE KENNEDY HOBART AQUATIC CENTRE

MIGRANT RESOURCE CENTRE TASMANIA

Funded by Sport and Recreation Communities Tasmania
WHAT IS IT, AND WHY ARE WE DOING IT?

- Multicultural swimming program, made possible through receiving a $30,000 grant
- Collaboration between Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre and Migrant Resource Centre
- Many multicultural Tasmanians have very little water confidence, or have not had exposure to safe water for swimming
- To improve knowledge around water safety, and build skills to participate in water based activities with confidence
- 25 six-week swimming programs
NEW ARRIVALS TO TASMANIA

• Through the Humanitarian Settlement Program, the MRC recorded over 500 new arrivals to Hobart and Launceston between October 2017 and June 2018

• Migrants currently arriving, holding Humanitarian Visas are from the following backgrounds:

  • Oromo (Ethiopia: Sudan/Egypt/Kenya refugee camps)
  • Saho (Eritrea: refugee camps in Egypt/Kenya/Sudan)
  • Anuak (Ethiopia: refugee camps)
  • Tigrinya (Eritrea: Ethiopia/Sudan/Egypt/Kenya refugee camps)
  • Amhara (Ethiopia: Sudan/Egypt/Kenya refugee camps)
  • S’gaw Karen (Burma: Thai refugee camp)
  • Bhutanese (Bhutan: Nepal refugee camp)
  • Haka Chin (Burma: Thai refugee camps)
  • Hazara/Afghan (Afghanistan: Iran or Pakistani refugee camps)
  • Syrian (Syria: refugee camps eg. Jordan, Greece)
  • Iraqi (Iraq: refugee camps eg. Jordan, Greece)

NOTE: Migration numbers from other Visa streams, such as Family, Skilled or Student Visas not included
CONSIDERATIONS

• Communicating through language barriers
• Respect for cultural and religious backgrounds
• Providing spaces and instructors to suit the cultural needs of individuals
• Previous experience with water, if any
• Whilst some countries are landlocked, which prevents exposure to water bodies, other countries suffer from unsafe/polluted waterways, impacting on opportunities for gaining water confidence
WHAT WE’RE LEARNING...
WHERE WE’RE HEADING...
HOW WILL THE PROGRAM BE DELIVERED?

• A Framework has been developed by our Aquatic Centre project team

• Two age ranges:
  1. 6 months to 16 years
  2. 16 years plus

• Three learning phases:
  1. Introduction and entry into water – 6 weeks
  2. Water familiarisation/adaption – 6 weeks
  3. Water confidence/assurance – 6 weeks
WHAT ELSE WILL WE OFFER?

SPECIAL PROGRAMS:
• Family orientation
• Water safety and survival
• Introduction to water sports
• Competitive swimming
OUTCOMES SO FAR...

• Positive feedback from participants and community
• Many eligible and enthusiastic participants identified through the Migrant Resource Centre
• Speedo (retail swimwear supplier) has offered swimsuits at wholesale price for participants
• Aquatic Centre staff are engaged and developing as individuals, as they further their understanding and respect for cultural diversity