

# 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)
  - S'gaw Karen (Burma: Thai refugee camp)
  - Saho (Eritrea: refugee camps in Egypt/Kenya/Sudan)
  - Bhutanese (Bhutan: Nepal refugee camp)
  - Anuak (Ethiopia: refugee camps)
  - Haka Chin (Burma: Thai refugee camps)
  - Tigrinya (Eritrea: Ethiopia/Sudan/Egypt/Kenya refugee camps)
  - Hazara/Afghan (Afghanistan: Iran or Pakistani refugee camps)
  - Amhara (Ethiopia: Sudan/Egypt/Kenya 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

