

Wai Ora Tāmaki Makaurau  
Auckland's Water Safety and Drowning Prevention Strategy

**Progress Report October 2023**

Informed by the previous month of workshops and reflections, this month was focused on streamlining efforts, redeploying resources, and significant engagement with the sector.

**WOTM – Streamlining Efforts.**

A 'Have we got it right' workshop was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> September to explore, challenge, and ensure WOTM is optimally focused and functioning. This was facilitated the independent advisor [Peter Crow](#), and outcomes from the meeting identified the need to: produce a simple 'One pager' to tell the story of WOTM's past, present and future; communicate and celebrate the small winnings along the journey; redesign the strategic operation plan to better reflect the alignment of workstreams to strategic pillars; and consider the capacity of the sector to stay on the journey. Each of these areas will be the foci for October.

**WOTM - Redeploying resources.**

The above workshop highlighted the sector had possibly reached capacity. On the back of this insight, several actions were taken: 1) The Aviation workstream was be placed on hold; 2) Each organisation was asked to supply strategic plans to identify alignment to WOTM's strategic plan; 3) Two new workstreams were created to increase both WOTM profile and funding.

**WOTM – Significant Sector Engagement through workstreams**

**Working Group 1 - Integrated Aquatic Pathway (IAP).**

Stakeholders have considered and now included the prerequisite competencies required for their programmes and services, and discussions have continued to reduce duplication and fill the delivery gaps. Many outcomes require working group members to seek sign-off from higher levels which impacts on timeframe, and experiences sector disharmony within this level.

**Working Group 2 - Business Engagement Strategy**

The 'on-the-water' qualitative survey now includes 'on land' options with the support of SLSN; Coastguard NZ and Paddleboard NZ, and the blind customer qualitative survey is drafted. Both quantitative and qualitative surveys will be conducted November out in the field. The funding application submitted to NZSAR has had no traction to this point.

**Working Group 3 - Employment Journey**

This working group has collected evidence to better understand the region's employment pinch points. Further research is planned through our stakeholders and international research. It is suggested an 'aquatic employment package' be produced along with a promotional plan containing both short- and long-term strategies. Representatives continue to include voices from facilities, delivery, injury prevention and both regional and national perspectives.

**Working Group 4 - Tāmaki Makaurau Event Calendar**

During the reference group meeting held 28<sup>th</sup> September, stakeholders verbally offered information to update the calendar. An online platform is being explored to host the calendar (similarly to SLSN event calendar) and enable interaction by key stakeholders. Early discussions regarding collaborative and collective efforts have been initiated and Fyfod's 'Extravaganza' on the 11 November was identified as an initial opportunity, and an example of how other districts could engage their ethnic communities.

**Working Group 5 - Life Jacket Bylaw.**

Past learnings, new research, and current data has been collected and collated to form an information paper for Nicola and Callum who are meeting with Councillor Alf for guidance in the first instance. A date is to be secured for this meeting and it is proposed to write a full submission on the back of recommendations from this meeting.

**Sector Engagement.**

**WAVES Conference.**

The WOTM presentation titled "The importance of collaborative muscle when developing meaningful drowning prevention initiatives in a regional context" was delivered at the WAVES conference on 6 Oct 2023 and well received by attendees. Added value was the opportunity to engage with national representatives and potential inclusion into WOTM work streams.

WOTM meetings	X 3 WOTM Working Group workshops. x 1 Peter Crow Facilitated Workshop. X1 Rihari, Ryco Mahaki. Workshop
Sector meetings	X 12 one-on-one meetings.
Professional Development	X1 DPA Team Day

