

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

**Progress Report
September 2023**

Incubating the development of the six working streams and preparation for the WAVES conference were the main foci for August. This required exploratory reading, wide sector engagement and the opportunity to reflect on the past 6 month's progress.

The WOTM strategic measures & timeline.

During the WOTM Reference group meeting held on the 27th of July, an update on WOTM's progress was presented along with the new priority projects. Questions were raised during this meeting regarding the logic of where, how, and why the strategy is heading in this direction. These questions had merit and to ensure best practice, an independent advisor [Peter Crow](#), has been engaged to workshop with the sector on the 18th September to explore, challenge, and ensure WOTM is optimally focused and functioning.

Working Group 1 - Integrated Aquatic Pathway (IAP).

Lynley, DPA presented to this working group the importance of the water competencies as an underlying criterion and explained the relevance for all programmes and services to consider prerequisite competencies and competencies that are enhanced/embedded in their programme/service. The next steps are for organisations are to consider areas to reduce duplication, fill gaps or redeploy resources.

Working Group 2 - Water Safety Code

The sector continues to use the current four water safety codes and DPA's 'Float First' message and wait for further updates from WSNZ and the Safety Forums comms and marketing group.

Working Group 3 - Business Engagement Strategy

Support for the 'on-the-water' qualitative survey has extended to include other organisations collecting data from land and offering staff to support the blind customer qualitative survey. National organisations are showing early indications of support by joining discussions and seeking gifts for responders. The 'Apps' register has been updated with sector feedback and ready for graphics to be applied. A funding application has been submitted to NZSAR and healthy discussions continue.

Working Group 4 - Employment Journey

Community wide avenues were sought, and a working group established with the first meeting set for 12 September. Representatives include voices from facilities, delivery, injury prevention and both regional and national perspectives.

Working Group 5 - Tāmaki Makaurau Event Calendar

This regional version has had ongoing updates and now require graphics before sharing as an interactive document. Early discussions regarding collaborative and collective efforts have been initiated and will be a focus for September.

Working Group 6 - Life Jacket Bylaw.

Stakeholders were drawn back together to create a timeline and a strategy to approach Council. The working group was co-led by Callum, CNZ and the initial step is to gather evidence of past learnings and formulate a case to inform Nicola and Callum, who will meet with Councillor Alf for guidance in the first instance.

WAVES Conference.

Time was allocated to preparing the presentation “The importance of collaborative muscle when developing meaningful drowning prevention initiatives in a regional context” for the WAVES conference, 6 Oct 2023. This included research, abstract reading, design work and discussions. All collateral for conference attendees and our work creating behavioural change.

Sector Engagement.

This month has included a range of sector engagement as summarised below.

Event Engagement	X 1 Te Kaa Graduation.
WOTM meetings	X 3 WOTM Working Group workshops. x 1 Peter Crow Planning workshop.
Sector meetings	X 11 one-on-one meetings. X 1 Safety Collective Forum. X1 MNZ Education Team
Professional Development	X1 Dr. O'Regan Webinar X1 DPA Public Speaking Workshop
Funding Applications	X1 NZSAR
Annual Leave	X1 Week taken from the month's work streams.