

NSW WATER SAFETY FORUM 2018

PARLIAMENT HOUSE



About the Presenters

Alison Mahony

Senior Project Officer – Research and Policy

Royal Life Saving Society – Australia

Alison is responsible for data collection, entry and analysis using the Royal Life Saving National Fatal Drowning Database and has co-authored a range of research reports and articles.

Shane Daw

Costal Risk Safety Manager
Surf Life Saving Australia

Shane is responsible for developing, delivering and maintaining the national strategic direction of coastal safety and risk across all surf lifesaving activities. The role manages and oversees strategy and programs across coastal safety, lifesaving operations, and research and emergency services.

Shane has worked for over 25 years within surf lifesaving in areas of research, operations, coastal risk management and strategy. His involvement varies from strategy through to being a rescue practitioner, including 28 years in helicopter operations as senior crew.

Wedyan Meshreky

NSW Public Health Officer
Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence
NSW Ministry of Health

Wedyan is a NSW Public Health Officer and registered pharmacist.

Wedyan has completed a Bachelor of Pharmacy and a Master of International Public Health at the University of Sydney. Wedyan is a Sessional Academic at the Sydney School of Public Health and has previously worked with Médecins Sans Frontières and at NPS MedicineWise.

Eveline Rijkssen

Research Coordinator
Surf Life Saving Australia

Eveline is responsible for generating the National Coastal Safety Report annually and coordinating various research projects. Some of the research she is involved with at SLSA includes rip currents, non-fatal drowning, bystander rescues and drowning epidemiology. Reports she has published on various research topics can be found here: www.sls.com/publications

Amy Peden

National Manager – Research and Policy
Royal Life Saving Society – Australia

Amy is responsible for a range of research including the National Drowning Report and manages the Keep Watch and Grey Medallion programs. She is currently undertaking a PhD on the prevention of river drowning deaths.

Dr Kyra Hamilton

Director, Health and Psychology
Innovations Research Lab
Griffith University

Dr Hamilton has psychology and nursing qualifications and over 25 years' experience in the health field. Her main areas of research are health psychology and behavioural medicine with key interests in health behaviour motivation and change.

Dr Hamilton has a particular interest in drowning prevention and collaborates closely with Royal Life Saving Society – Australia, undertaking research on a range of topics including behaviours during floods (e.g. driving through floodwater), alcohol-related drowning and injury, associations of lifejacket wear, and predictors of parent/child pool safety behaviours. More information on Dr Hamilton's research can be found here: <https://hapiresearchlab.com>

Cally Sheehan

Senior Communications & Engagement
Advisor

Office of Emergency Management

Cally is an engagement specialist with experience across not for profit, government and the corporate sector, both within Australia and internationally.

With 16 years experience in public relations, events and education in various industries including maritime and water conservation, Cally brings passion and enthusiasm with her to the water safety arena.

She thrives on creating a positive impact within communities and teams, and is an advocate for social innovation.

Sheridan Bruce

Strategic Partnership and
Communications Manager

Water Safety New Zealand

Sheridan is a marketing professional whose career has spanned working across the charity, small business and corporate sectors. She has extensive experience in fundraising strategy, planning and implementation and has especially enjoyed working with fundraisers supporting their professional development.

At Water Safety New Zealand, Sheridan develops community based social marketing campaigns to address attitudes and behaviours around water safety specifically targeting parents of under-fives, young males, Maori, Pacific Peoples and new migrants. In addition, Sheridan leads the organisation's education programmes. Sheridan falls back on her psychology and mathematics tertiary training and vast work experience to ensure all campaigns are evidence based and robust.

Steven Pearce

CEO , Surf Life Saving NSW

Steven has 32 years emergency management experience as a senior officer with Fire and Rescue NSW and NSW State Emergency Service, where he has been awarded numerous commendations and citations.

Steven was appointed CEO of Surf Life Saving NSW in 2017 and is currently leading the organisation through significant transformational change.

Mark Heathcote

CEO, Swimming NSW

Mark is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Swimming NSW Ltd. Mark is responsible for the overall operations of the Company, including servicing a membership of 35,000 as well as the management of 20 staff, including six regional Development Officers. Mark has overseen the development and implementation of the highly successful Swimming NSW Indigenous Participation Program across NSW which has resulted in thousands of Indigenous & Torres Strait Islander children learning to swim.

Joshua Hay

Manager of Communications
Randwick City Council

Josh is a former journalist and professional photographer who turned his hand to corporate communications and has worked for a number of Sydney councils over the past 16 years. He's currently the Manager of Communications for Randwick City Council in Sydney's eastern suburbs where he has worked on a number of rock fishing research, communication and safety programs over the past five years. He's also a keen rock fisher and a Luderick specialist.

Program

9.30AM: Introduction	Jeremy Hillman
9.35AM: Forum Opening	Minister for Emergency Services, The Hon. Troy Grant MP
9.40AM: Session 1 - Latest Drowning Data	
Summer 2017/18: Analysis of Fatal and Non-Fatal Drowning Incidents	Alison Mahony, Royal Life Saving Society - Australia
Coastal Drowning Overview & National Comparison	Shane Daw, Surf Life Saving Australia
Non-fatal Drowning Related Presentations, NSW Emergency Departments	Wedyan Meshreky, NSW Ministry of Health

Panel Discussion

10.25AM: Session 2 - Research and Insights	
Bystander Rescues	Eveline Rijkssen, Surf Life Saving Australia
NSW River Drowning Blackspots: Epidemiology & Strategies for Prevention	Amy Peden, Royal Life Saving Society - Australia
Behaviour of Parents & Carers	Dr Kyra Hamilton, Griffith University

Panel Discussion

11.10AM: Morning Tea

11.30AM: Session 3 - Changing Behaviour and Attitudes	
Office of Emergency Management 2017/18 Water Safety Campaign Wrap-up	Cally Sheehan, Office of Emergency Management
The Swim Reaper - An Unlikely Water Safety Ambassador and Online Sensation	Sheridan Bruce, Water Safety New Zealand

Panel Discussion

12.05PM: Session 4 - Community Initiatives and Programs	
Drones 'Leading the Way'	Steven Pearce, Surf Life Saving NSW
Swimming NSW: Indigenous Participation Program	Mark Heathcote, Swimming NSW
Rock Fishing Education and Safety	Joshua Hay, Randwick City Council

Panel Discussion

12.50PM: Forum Wrap Up	Jeremy Hillman
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12.55PM: Forum Close and Lunch