

Wai Ora Aotearoa Water Safety Strategy 2020-2025

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We are the leader of the water safety sector and take overall responsibility for leading, implementing and delivering some of the actions in the Wai Ora Aotearoa Navigating to a Safer future 'NZ Water Safety Sector Strategy 2025' (Sector Strategy).

The vision of the sector strategy is that "Everyone connects to and enjoys the water safely", and it has 3 end outcomes:

- **Cultural change** evidenced by an increase in New Zealander's water safety competencies and their modified behaviours around water based on risk awareness.
- **Reduced drowning fatalities and drowning related hospitalisations** evidenced by the social and economic costs of drowning and water related injury and hospitalisations being minimised based on risk.
- **High performing** a water safety sector that is world leading.

These outcomes are to be achieved through the actions in the sector strategy that all signatories of the strategy committed to. [1]

Consolidating governance arrangements

The sector strategy required the establishment of pillar advisory groups to assist with the delivery of actions sitting under each pillar of the strategy (Education and Training, Data, Research and Insights; Communication, Collaboration and Partnerships; Leadership, Advocacy & Influence; and Frontline Prevention Search and Rescue). We finalised the last of these pillar groups over the 2022/23 year.

A Terms of Reference (ToR) was developed to guide the work of each pillar advisory groups. Progress on these ToRs has been slower with the Education and Training pillar advisory group ToR signed, the Data, Research and Insights ToR agreed in principle, and the Communication, Collaboration and Partnerships ToR now in draft form.

Implementing the actions in the sector strategy

We continued to assist the water safety sector deliver the sector strategy with their strategy, planning, implementation, and reporting functions. However, with the sector strategy at its mid-point (2023) we were concerned about the lack of progress with the sector strategies' actions.

Over the year we worked with Wai Ora Leaders and identified the priority actions within the strategy. Wai Ora leaders are focusing on planning and implementing their lead priority actions. Our lead priority actions were included in the 6-month review of our 2023/24 Management Plan, are largely complete.

Implementation of these priority actions will continue in parallel to the proposed evaluation of the current sector strategy. This evaluation will inform the new sector strategy 2025-30.

How we performed against our performance measures can be seen in our Statement of Service Performance.

