

<FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE>

WATER SAFETY REMINDER IN TIME FOR SUMMER

Tuesday 26 November, 2019

UPDATE – AMENDED TIME FOR OLYMPIAN KYLE CHALMERS APPEARING

Olympic Gold Medallist Kyle Chalmers will now be in attendance at the Gawler Place canopy, Rundle Mall from 10.00am to 11.00 a.m. (amended from 11.00am to 12.00pm)

South Australians are being reminded of the need to take responsibility for their own safety in and around water as we approach the summer season.

The message comes ahead of a 'Summer Water Safety Promotion' coordinated by the South Australian Water Safety Committee in Rundle Mall tomorrow, (Wednesday 27 November). The promotion will see a range of Government and non-Government organisations coming together between 10.00am and 2.00pm in Gawler Place, to promote various aspects of water safety.

Figures released by Royal Life Saving Australia in the most recent National Drowning Report show that 276 people drowned in Australia during the 2018/19 financial year, of which 14 were in South Australia, one less than the previous year and a reduction of 13% on the ten year average.

While the reduction in drowning deaths over the ten year period is encouraging, all drownings are considered preventable, with one being too many.

The highest percentage of drowning deaths in South Australia occurred whilst swimming or recreating at a beach, with other activities being evenly spread across boating, other water craft, diving and entering the water to perform a rescue.

There are a number of high level messages that people should consider to ensure their safety around water. These include:

- Observe warning signs, take responsibility for your own safety and consider your own ability
- Constantly keep watch over children, including when at parks and reserves with ponds
- Where possible, swim at beaches patrolled by life savers and never swim alone
- Ensure your child participates in a water safety program
- Alcohol and drugs may adversely affect your swimming ability and judgement
- Wear a life jacket when boating

To assist with the promotion, **Olympic swimming Gold Medallist and water safety advocate Kyle Chalmers will be on hand between 10.00a.m. and 11.00a.m. to meet members of the public and provide comment.**

Members of the media are invited to attend.

Media enquiries: Darryl Wright, Executive Officer, SA Water Safety Committee, on 0409 286 487.