



The Hon Graham Annesley MP

Minister for Sport and Recreation

MEDIA RELEASE

Embargoed til 9.00pm Thursday 29 September 2011

WATER SAFETY HEROES HONoured

Minister for Sport and Recreation, Graham Annesley honoured individuals and organisations that have helped to reduce drownings in NSW at the Austswim NSW 2011 Water Safety Awards.

“The awards presented tonight recognise the work of dedicated professionals and generous volunteers who help to make our beaches, rivers, dams and pools safer for children and adults,” Mr Annesley said.

“I sincerely thank and congratulate all the winners for the lifesaving contributions they have made – be it through education, research or direct action.”

The 2011 NSW Water Safety Award winners are:

- Community Education Project of the Year: NSW Maritime “Take it Easy” personal watercraft safety campaign
- Water Safety Event of the Year: Gosford City Council “Stay Safe at the Beach” Day
- Research Project of the Year: “The behavioural responses of swimmers caught in rip currents” - Surf Lifesaving Australia, University of New South Wales, United States Naval Postgraduate Institute
- Most Significant Contribution to Water Safety by an Individual: Katie Dixon, Ocean Beach Surf Life Saver
- Most Significant Contribution to Water Safety with a focus on an under-represented group: Samuel Morris Foundation
- Most Significant Contribution to Water Safety by an Organisation: Gosford City Council

Mr Annesley said the NSW Government is committed to supporting a coordinated NSW Water Safety Strategy lead by Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Michael Gallacher.

“The NSW Government is fulfilling its election commitment to water safety with \$12 million over four years to address drowning black spots, boost water safety education and support surf lifesaving,” Mr Annesley said.