

State Scorecard

Table 3.6: Northern Territory, Scorecard

Category	Detail	Value
Rank	1 of 8	1.45 per 100,000
Score	100.0	
Risk	Last 3-year mean drowning death rate	
Access	12.6 providers per 10k children	Access Shortage – 0.079
Demand	Adult 20.4%. Child 25.9%	Demand (composite) – 23.2% (equal-weight mean of adult & child participation rates)

Priority actions

- Expand lesson capacity in shortage areas.
- Target older adult refresher programs, especially pre-wet seasons.
- Strengthen water safety modules alongside stroke work (50/50 balance) across providers.

Chart 3.1 shows that, even with improvements, the drowning rate in the Northern Territory is 1.57. This is still much higher than the national average of 1.31 for 2024-25. Four drowning deaths occurred in the Northern Territory during this financial year.

Chart 3.1: NT, drowning rate vs. national average

NT drowning rate still among the highest, though the gap has narrowed

The Northern Territory once recorded rates more than four times the national average. While the gap has reduced in recent years, drowning risk remains significantly higher than the Australian baseline

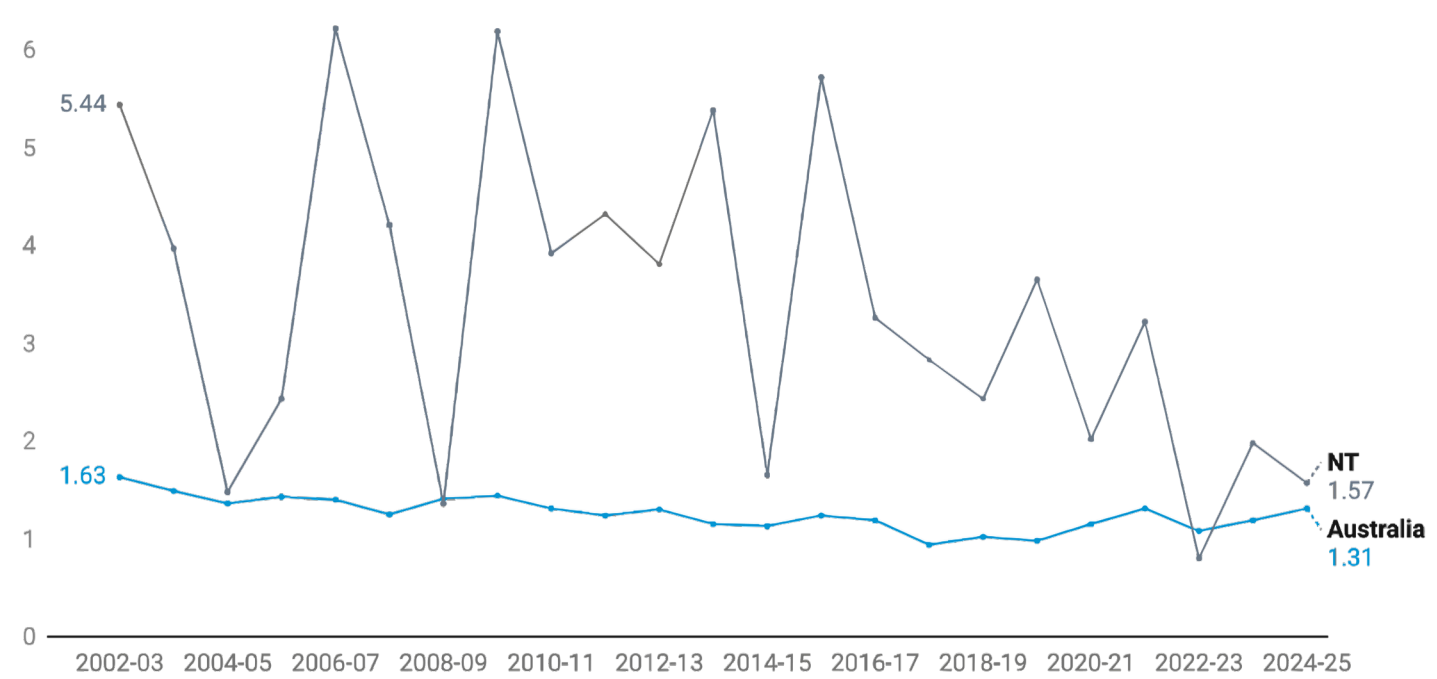


Chart: Otto Media Data Team • Source: The data was calculated using The Royal Life Saving National Fatal Drowning Database, several years of the National Drowning Report by The Royal Life Saving Australia, and ERP by SA2 (ASGS Edition 3), Age and Sex, 2001 onwards, from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. • Created with Datawrapper



Table 3.7: Tasmania, Swim Safety and Access Scorecard

Tasmania - Swim Safety & Access Scoreboard		
Rank	2 of 8	
Score	73.9	
Risk	Last 3-year mean drowning death rate	1.34 per 100,000
Access	17.3 providers per 10k children	Access Shortage - 0.058
Demand	Adult 16.6%. Child 23.5%. Demand (composite) – 20.1% (equal-weight mean of adult & child participation rates)	

Priority actions

- Expand lesson capacity.
- Emphasise cold-water shock & lifejacket modules in all levels.
- Retain 10-14 years children through school terms and breaks; on - ramps adults to refresher blocks.

Chart 3.2 shows that Tasmania often has a higher drowning death rate than the national average, even with some dips. In the financial year 2024-25, there were a total of 8 deaths in Tasmania.

Chart 3.2: TAS, drowning rate vs. national average

Tasmania’s drowning risk remains among the highest in Australia

Despite occasional dips, Tasmania has consistently recorded higher drowning rates than the national average, underlining persistent vulnerability

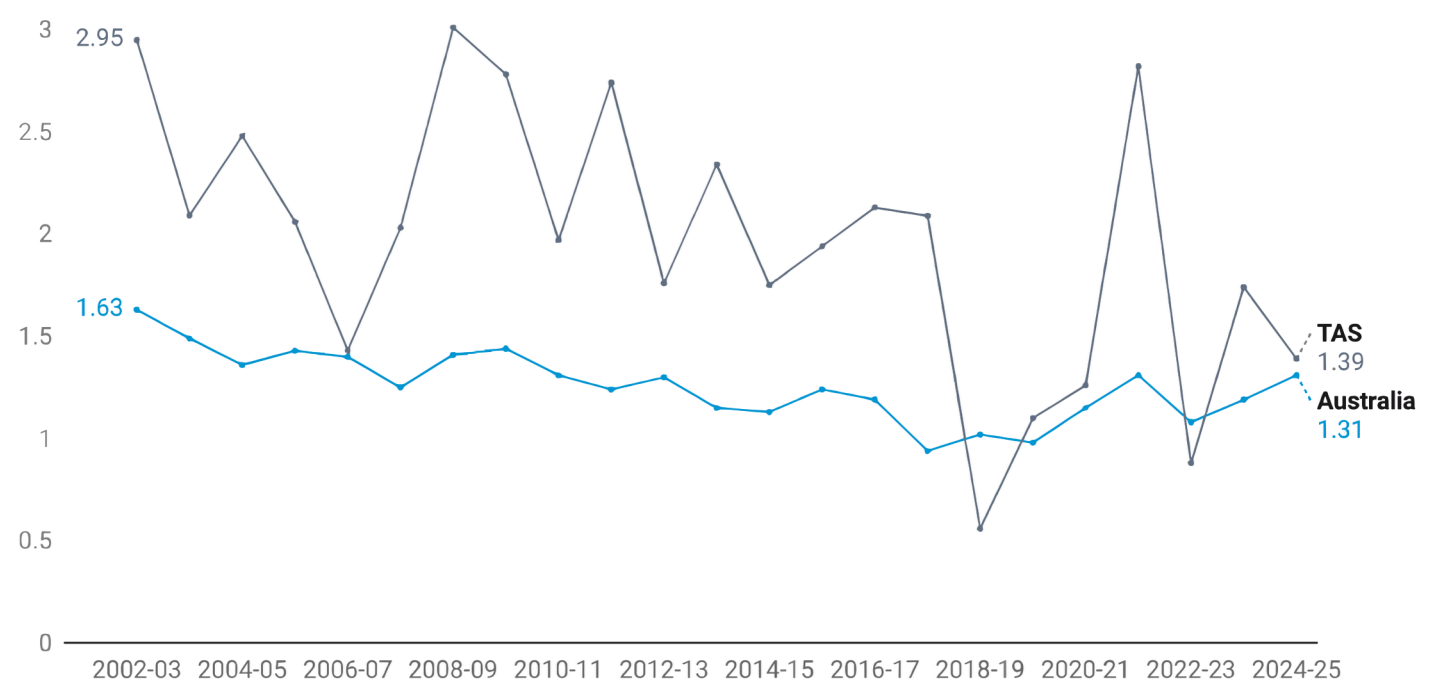


Chart: Otto Media Data Team • Source: The data was calculated using The Royal Life Saving National Fatal Drowning Database, several years of the National Drowning Report by The Royal Life Saving Australia, and ERP by SA2 (ASGS Edition 3), Age and Sex, 2001 onwards, from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. • Created with Datawrapper



Table 3.8: Western Australia, Swim Safety and Access Scorecard

Western Australia: Swim Safety & Access Scorecard		
Rank	3 of 8	
Score	72.0	
Risk	Last 3-year mean drowning death rate	1.37 per 100,000
Access	17.9 providers per 10k children	Access Shortage - 0.056
Demand	Adult 15.5%. Child 22.8%. Demand (composite) – 19.2% (equal-weight mean of adult & child participation rates)	

Priority actions

- Increase capacity in regional/remote areas and high-growth suburbs.
- Expand open water safety content in the curriculum.
- Partner with councils for facility access to lift capacity where waitlists persist.

Chart 3.3 shows that Western Australia has a higher rate of drowning deaths than the national average. Also, this gap has grown in recent years. In the financial year 2024-25, there were 49 unintentional drowning deaths in Western Australia.

Chart 3.3: WA drowning rate vs. national average

WA drowning rate remains above national average

Despite improvements, Western Australia has failed to close the gap with Australia overall, in fact the margin has widened again in recent years

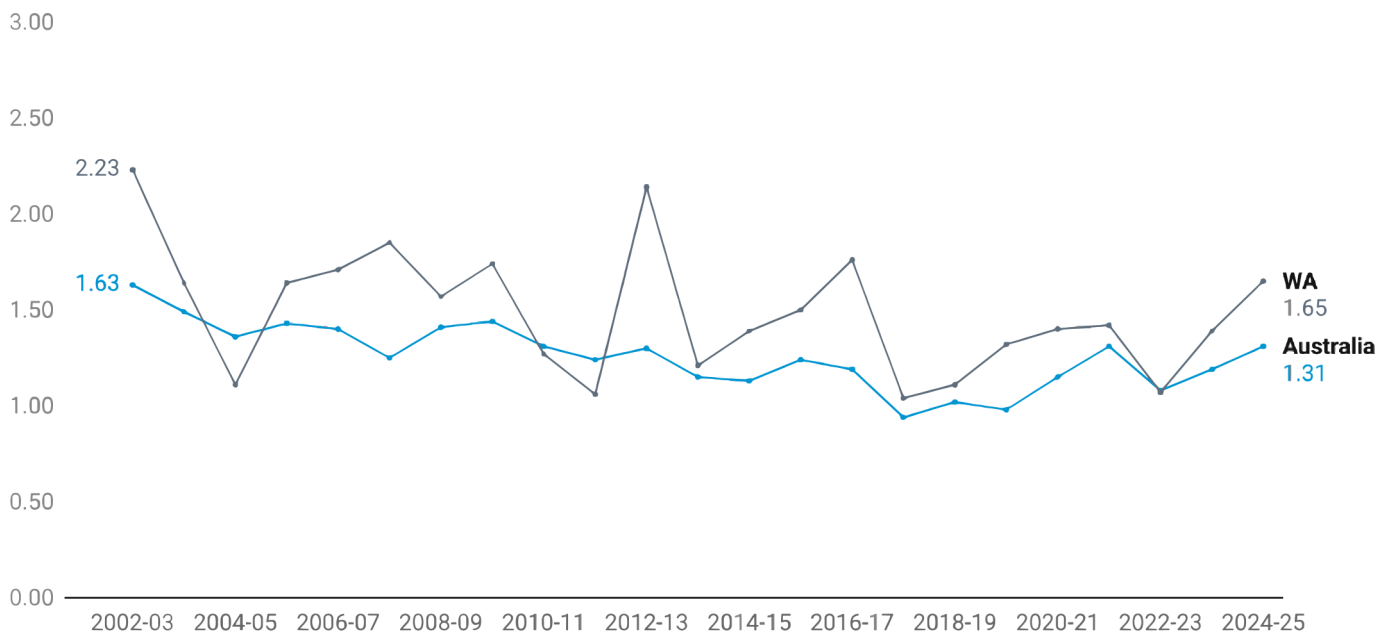


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Table 3.9: Queensland, Swim Safety & Access Scorecard

Queensland: Swim Safety & Access Scorecard		
Rank	4 of 8	
Score	64.2	
Risk	Last 3-year mean drowning death rate	1.35 per 100,000
Access	23.0 providers per 10k children	Access Shortage - 0.043
Demand	Adult 16.6%. Child 23.6%. Demand (composite) – 20.1% (equal-weight mean of adult & child participation rates)	

Priority actions

- Expand lesson capacity in coastal/population growth belts.
- Emphasise beach & flood-water safety modules within lessons (50/50 stroke + safety).
- Launch older-adult refreshers (pre-storm season) in regional and coastal hubs.

Chart 3.4 shows that, for the last twenty years, Queensland's drowning death rate has always been higher than the national average. The gap widened further in 2024-25, with 90 deaths occurring in Queensland during this period.

Chart 3.4: QLD, drowning rate vs. national average

QLD drowning rates remain persistently above the national average

Queensland has consistently recorded higher drowning rates than the Australian average, with the gap widening again in 2024-25

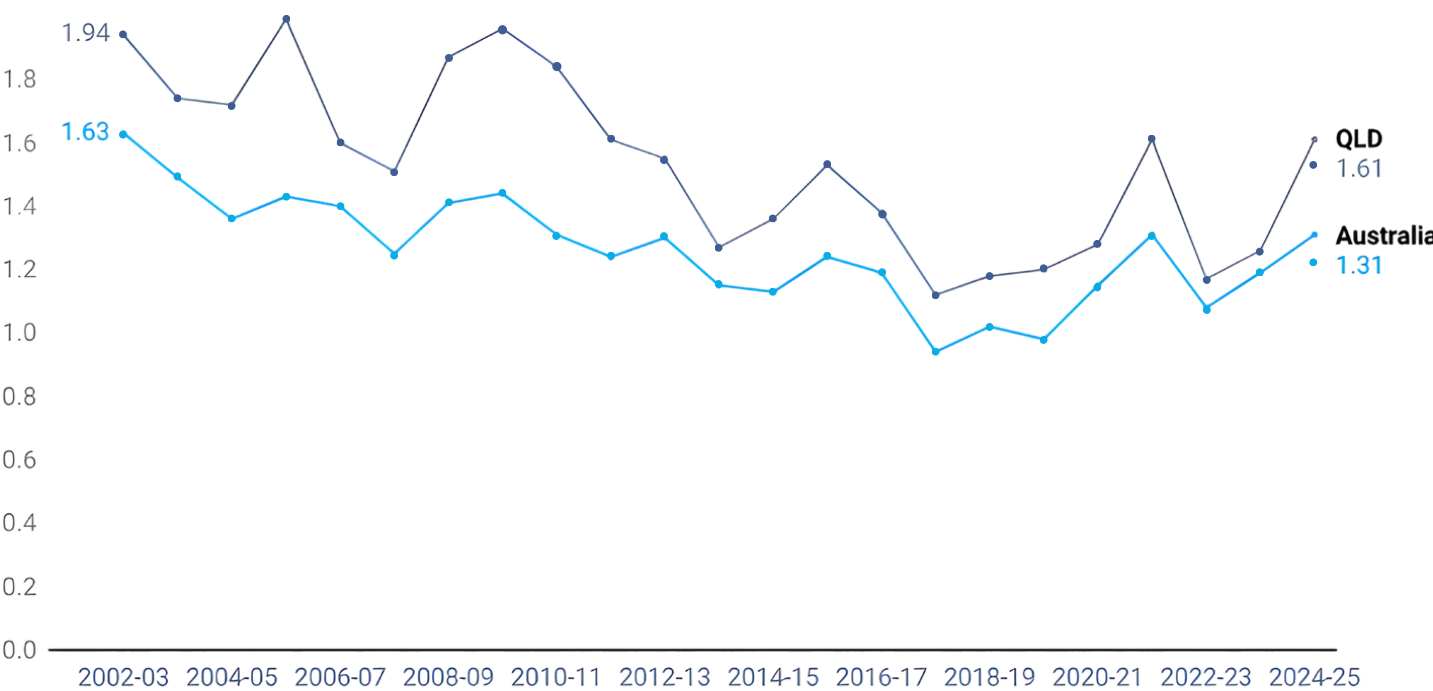


Chart: Otto Media Data Team • Source: The data was calculated using The Royal Life Saving National Fatal Drowning Database, several years of the National Drowning Report by The Royal Life Saving Australia, and ERP by SA2 (ASGS Edition 3), Age and Sex, 2001 onwards, from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. • Created with Datawrapper



Table 3.10: New South Wales, Swim Safety and Access Scorecard

New South Wales: Swim Safety & Access Scorecard		
Rank	5 of 8	
Score	62.8	
Risk	Last 3-year mean drowning death rate	1.44 per 100,000
Access	26.8 providers per 10k children	Access Shortage - 0.037
Demand	Adult 16.7%. Child 22.8%. Demand (composite) – 19.8% (equal-weight mean of adult & child participation rates)	

Priority actions

- Older-adult refresher blocks each spring (shore, rock, and inland water safety).
- Maintain high lesson capacity; prioritise waitlist hotspots before summer.
- Improve incident classification and insights with partners to better target interventions.

Progress in New South Wales has stalled since 2017-18, with the drowning growth rate exceeding the national average. Chart 3.5 illustrates this trend. In 2024-25, there were a total of 129 drowning deaths in NSW. There has been a rise in drowning deaths labelled as 'unknown.' This increase, especially in New South Wales, was noted earlier in this report (hart 1.3). Almost 50% of these 'unknown' deaths occurred in NSW in the last two financial years.

Chart 3.5: NSW, drowning rate vs. national average

NSW drowning rate rising faster than national since 2017-18 low

NSW has widened the gap with the national rate since 2017-18, with progress stalling in recent years

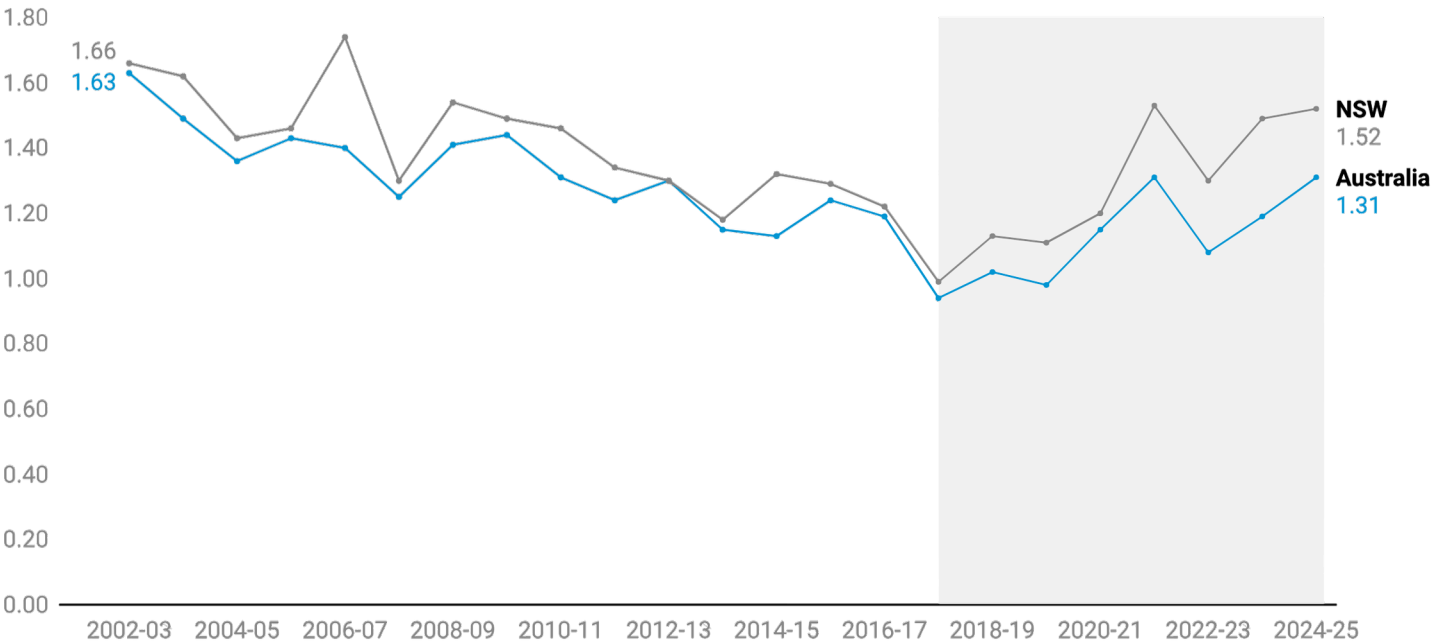


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Table 3.11: South Australia, Swim Safety and Access Scorecard

South Australia: Swim Safety & Access Scorecard		
Rank	6 of 8	
Score	44.9	
Risk	Last 3-year mean drowning death rate	0.95 per 100,000
Access	17.1 providers per 10k children	Access Shortage - 0.058
Demand	Adult 10.8%. Child 15.6%. Demand (composite) – 13.2% (equal-weight mean of adult & child participation rates)	

Priority actions

- Stimulate participation (low-fee slots, community outreach) to build skills safely.
- Add capacity in undersupplied LGAs; prioritise school-term blocks.
- Year-round adult refresher pathway to maintain skills for boaters and coastal users.

Chart 3.6 shows that South Australia was safer than the national average during the decade. However, there are still some spikes that raise concerns. In South Australia, 24 people lost their lives due to drowning during the financial year 2024-25.

Chart 3.6: SA, drowning rate vs. national average

South Australia remains safer than the national average

Drowning rates in SA have consistently stayed below Australia’s average, but periodic spikes highlight the need to sustain progress.

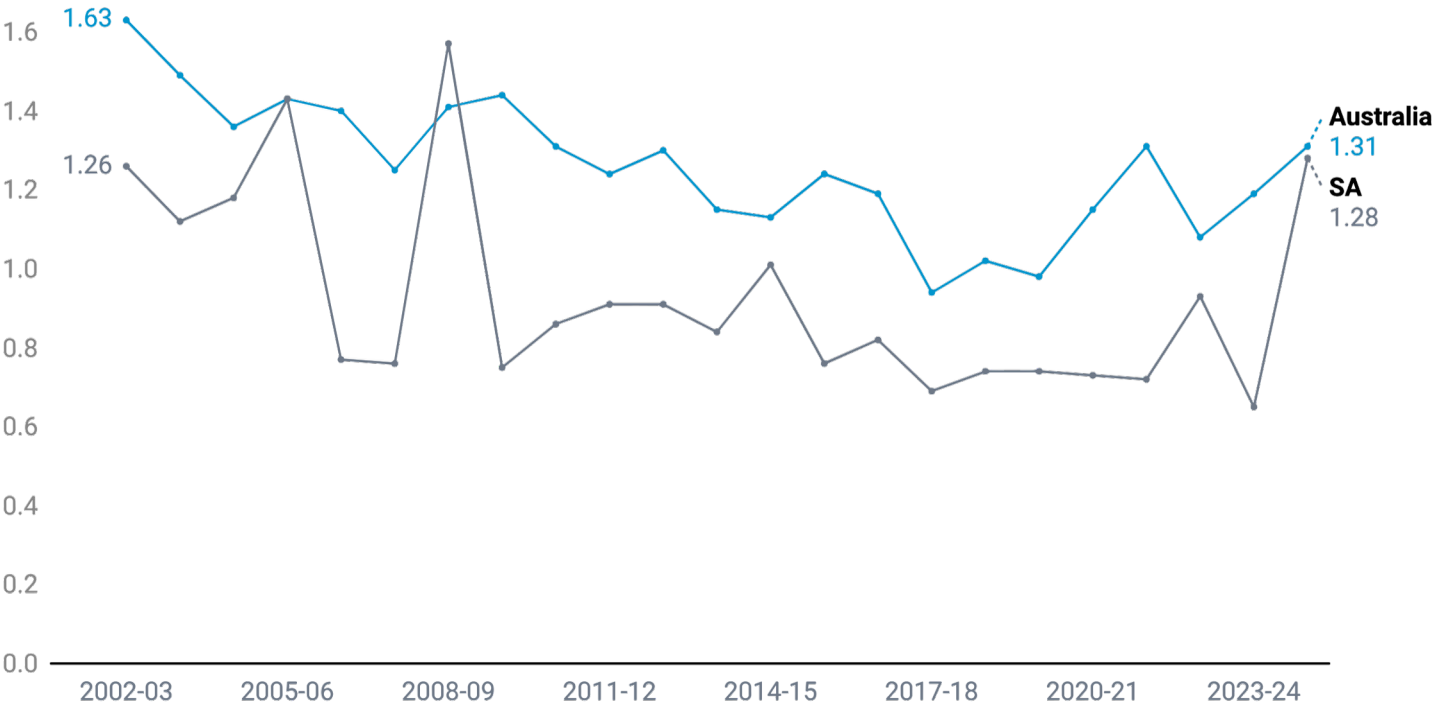


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Table 3.12: Victoria, Swim Safety and Access Scorecard

Victoria: Swim Safety & Access Scorecard		
Rank	7 of 8	
Score	36.5	
Risk	Last 3-year mean drowning death rate	0.81 per 100,000
Access	25.5 providers per 10k children	Access Shortage - 0.039
Demand	Adult 13.1%. Child 24.2%. Demand (composite) – 18.7% (equal-weight mean of adult & child participation rates)	

Priority actions

- Target the 0–14-year-old child retention cliff (keep teens enrolled through term breaks).
- Seasonal adult refresher programs (rips, cold water shock) before peak beach season.
- Maintain provider capacity in growth corridors to prevent future shortages.

Chart 3.7 indicates that Victoria continues to be one of the safest states in Australia regarding drowning risk. In 2024-25, 52 drowning deaths occurred in Victoria.

Chart 3.7: VIC, drowning rate vs national average

Victoria remains safer than the national average, year after year

Victoria has steadily widened its safety margin compared with the national average, making it one of the safest large states

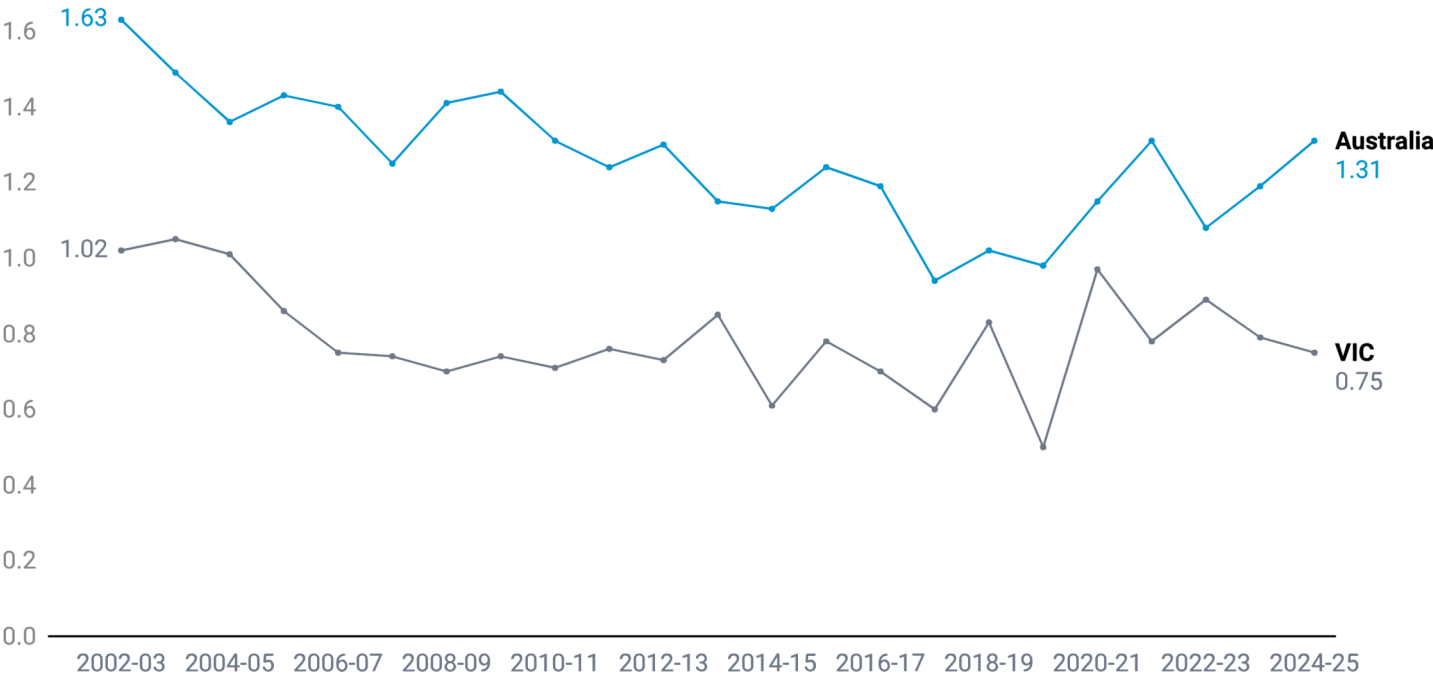


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Table 3.13: Australian Capital Territory, Swim Safety and Access Scorecard

Australian Capital Territory: Swim Safety & Access Scorecard		
Rank	8 of 8	
Score	22.1	
Risk	Last 3-year mean drowning death rate	0.21 per 100,000
Access	22.1 providers per 10k children	Access Shortage - 0.045
Demand	Adult 17.8%. Child 25.0%. Demand (composite) – 21.4% (equal-weight mean of adult & child participation rates)	

Priority actions

- Maintain low risk with term-break retention for 10–14-year-old children (post-primary drop-off).
- Offer adult refresher blocks each spring; promote rip current and cold water safety.
- Monitor capacity in fast growing suburbs; add slots if waitlists persist.

Chart 3.8 shows that the Australian Capital Territory has the lowest drowning death rates. This is true when compared to other states and the national average. One person died in the Australian Capital Territory due to drowning during the financial year 2024-25.

Chart 3.8: ACT, drowning rate vs. national average

ACT records the lowest drowning rate in Australia, but progress is uneven

Despite the low rate, periodic spikes show that water safety remains fragile

