



Tuia ki Tawhiti 2024

Swimmers Drown – what are we missing in aquatic education?

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What does DPA do?



**Drowning
Prevention
Auckland** 

Goals for Session

- Understanding the New Zealand drowning problem.
- Exploring the 15 *Water Competencies for Drowning Prevention* (Stallman, R. K., Moran, K., Langendorfer, S. J., & Quan, L. 2017).
- Critiquing current aquatic education programmes for learning to be more effective.



Why is aquatic education important?



Aotearoa New Zealand

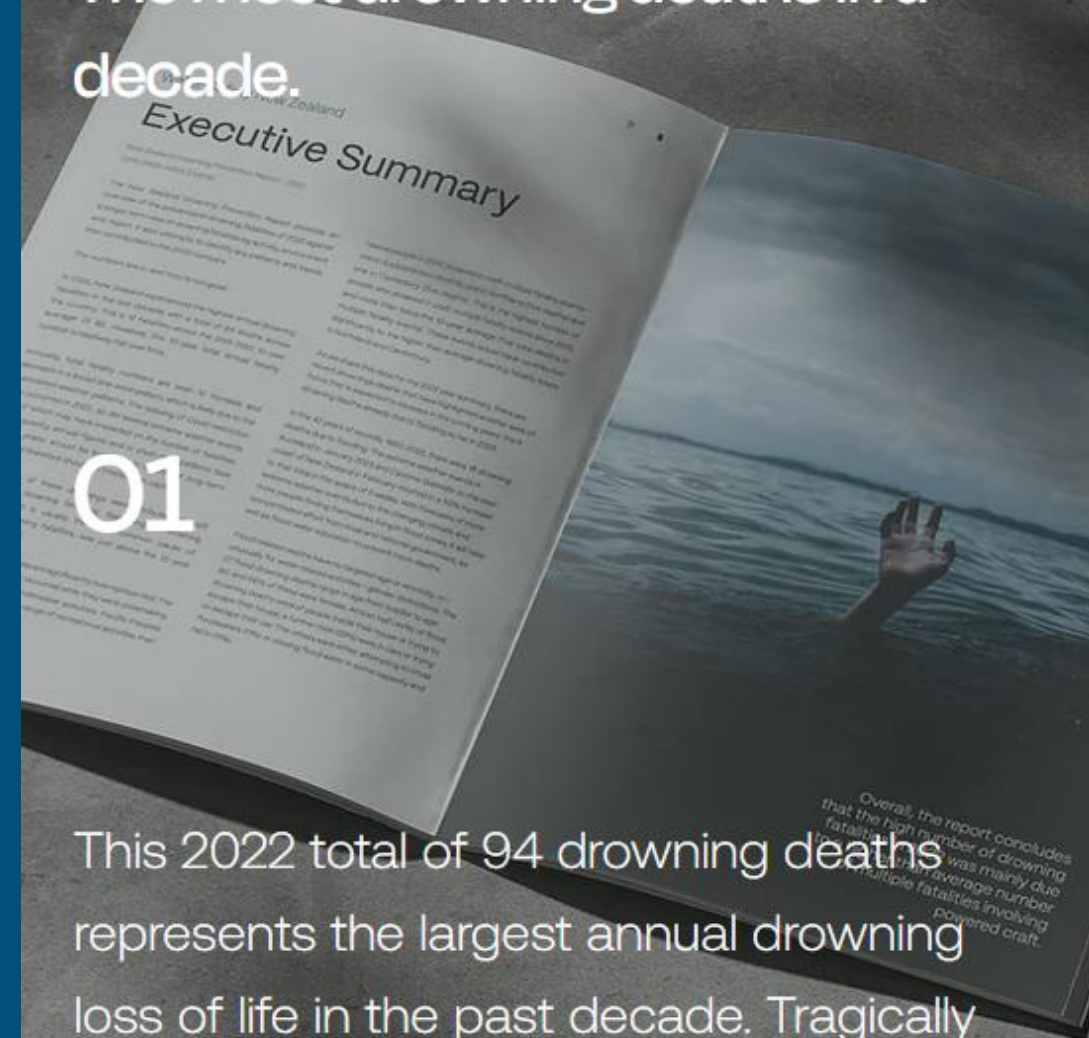
‘Aquatic Playground’



NZ's Drowning Problem

Who drowns and why?

94 lives lost to drowning in 2022.
The most drowning deaths in a
decade.



This 2022 total of 94 drowning deaths represents the largest annual drowning loss of life in the past decade. Tragically 15% higher than the 10 year average.

Overall, the report concludes that the high number of drowning fatalities in 2022 was mainly due to a high coverage number of multiple fatalities involving powered craft.



Preventable Drownings 2018-2022

Year	New Zealand Fatalities
2018	65
2019	79
2020	83
2021	91
2022	94
Total	412

2018-2022 New Zealand Preventable Fatal Drownings

Demographics

AGED 65+
21%



AGED 15-24
12%



MALE
83%

Aligns with
international data

ASIAN
14%



MĀORI
25%

PASIFIKA
9%



Preventable Drowning 2018-2022

25

Drowning Percentage by Age Group

20

15

10

5

0

0 - 4

5 - 14

15 - 24

25 - 34

35 - 44

45 - 54

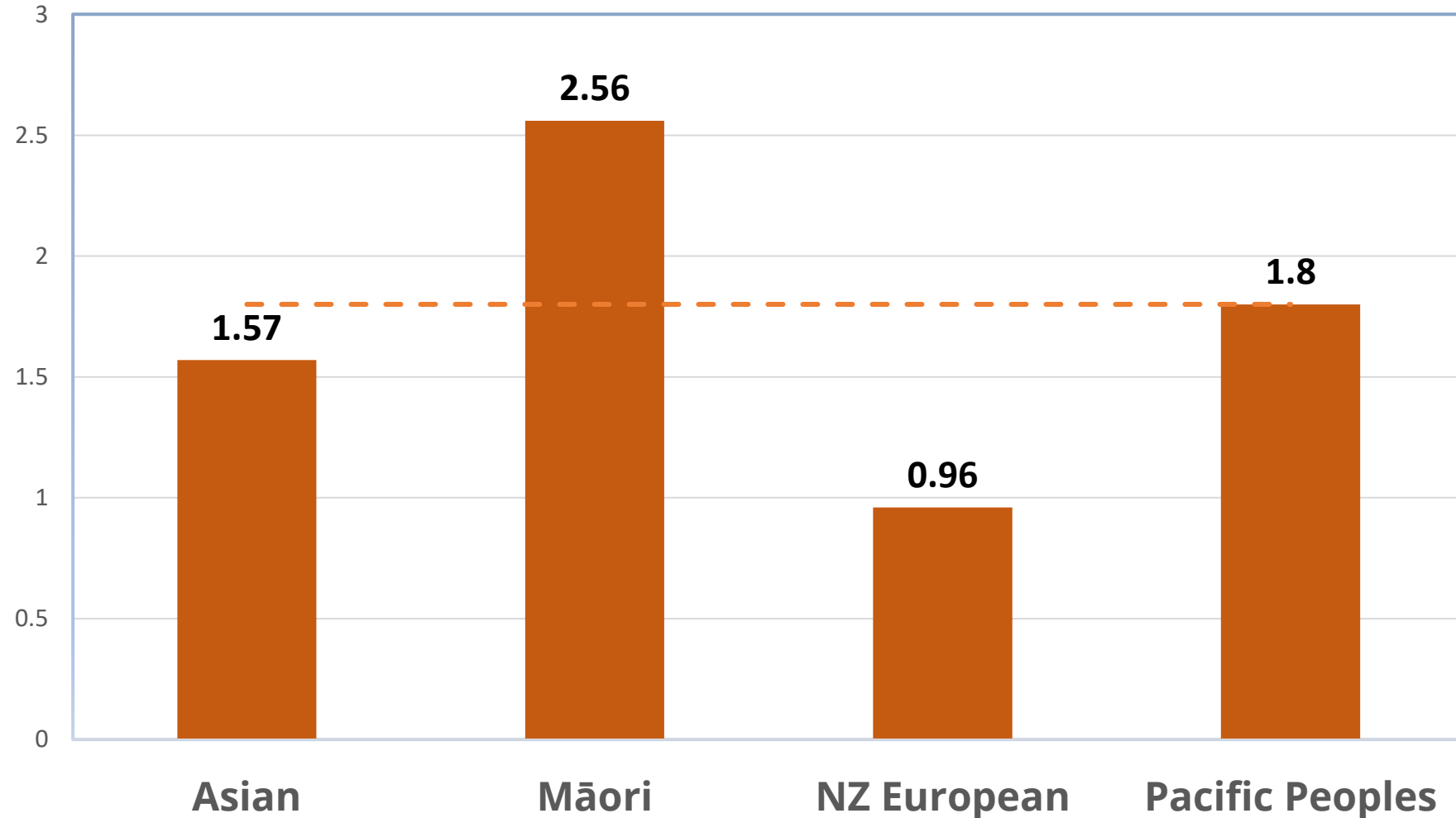
55 - 64

65+

Fatal drowning is more likely to occur in the older age-groups, with hospitalisations, or non-fatal drowning, more likely in children 14 years or younger.

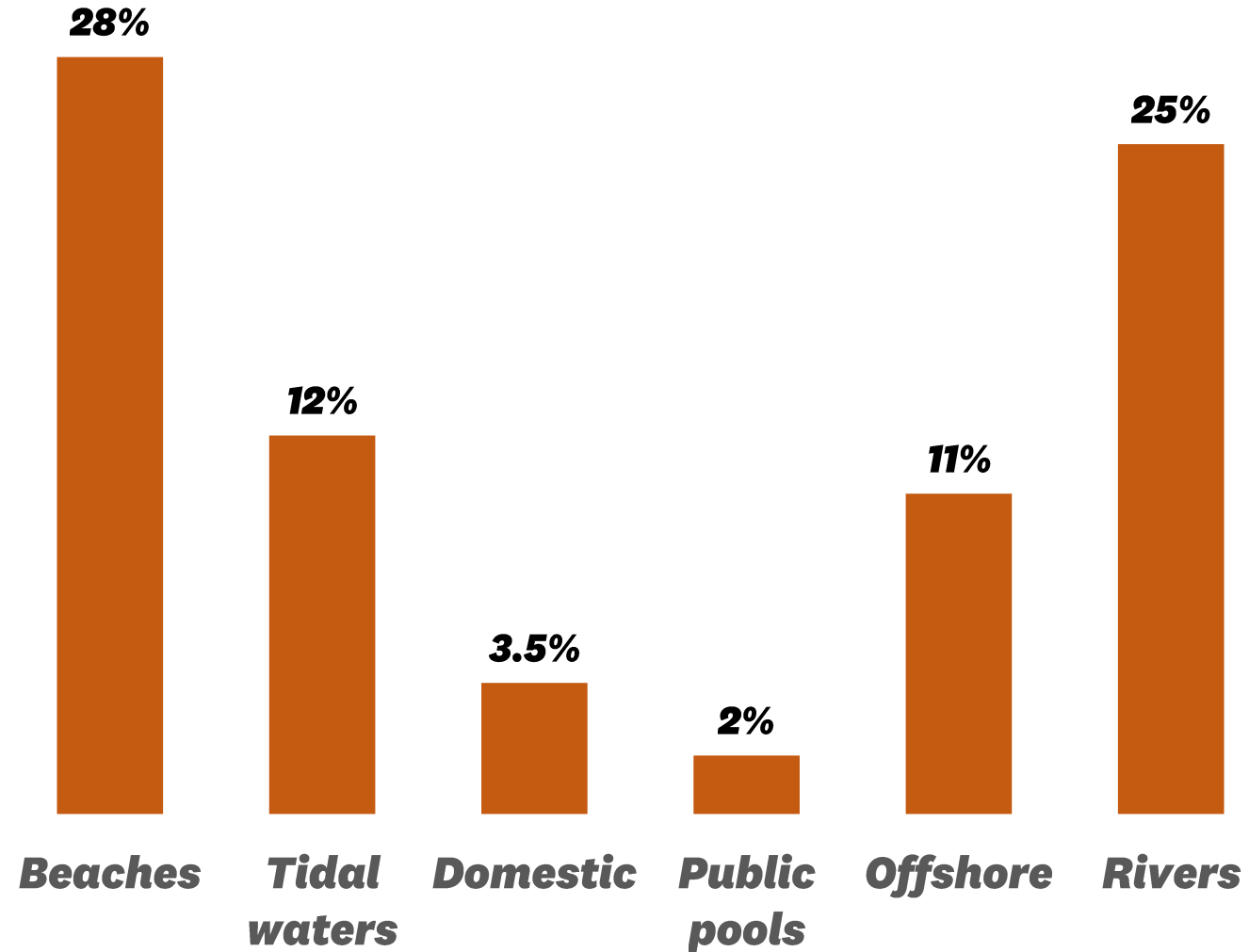
Preventable Drowning 2017-2021

Drowning Rate by Ethnicity



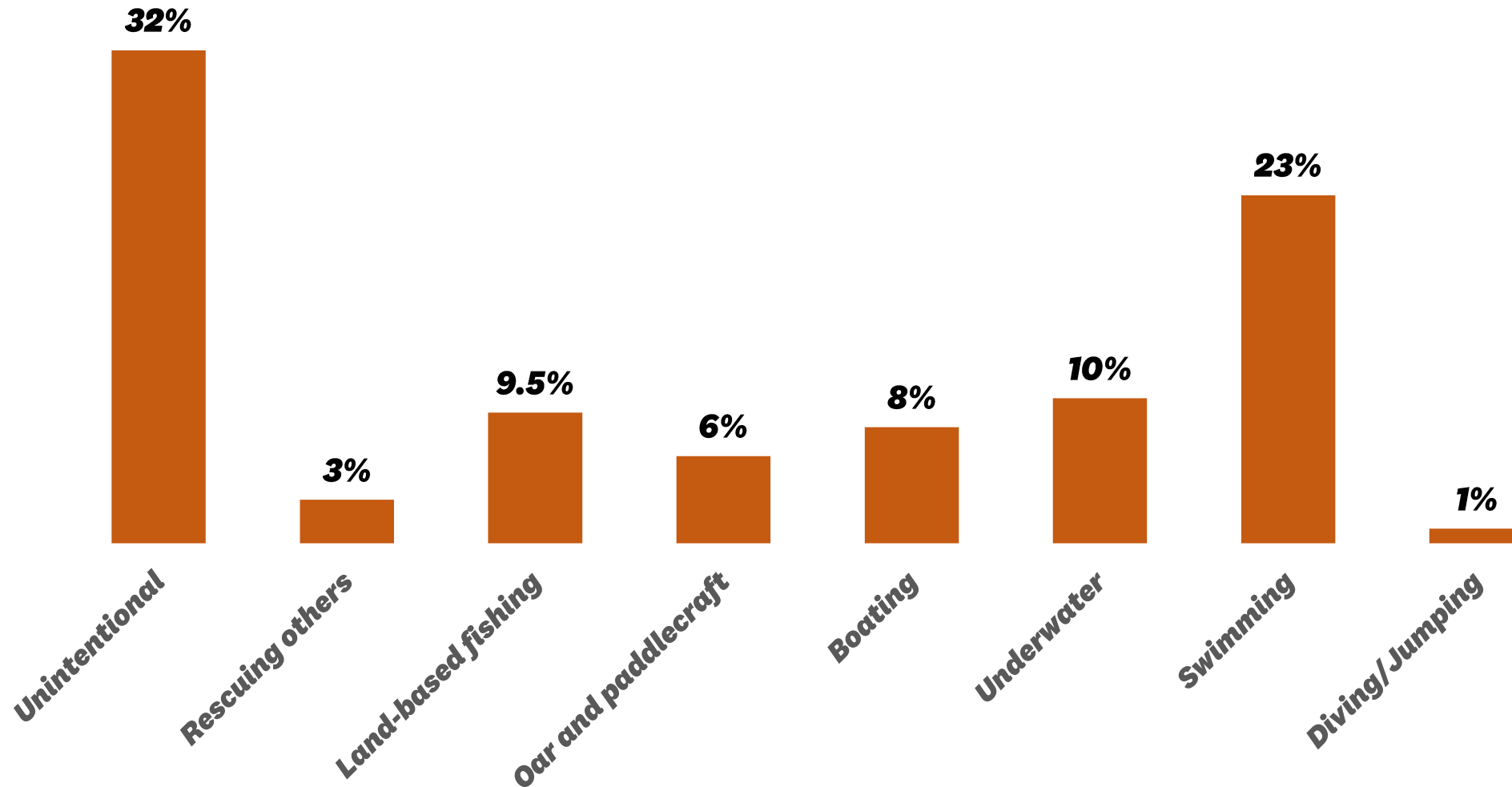
2018-2022 NZ Preventable Fatal Drownings

Drowning Percentage by Environment



2017-2021 NZ Preventable Fatal Drownings

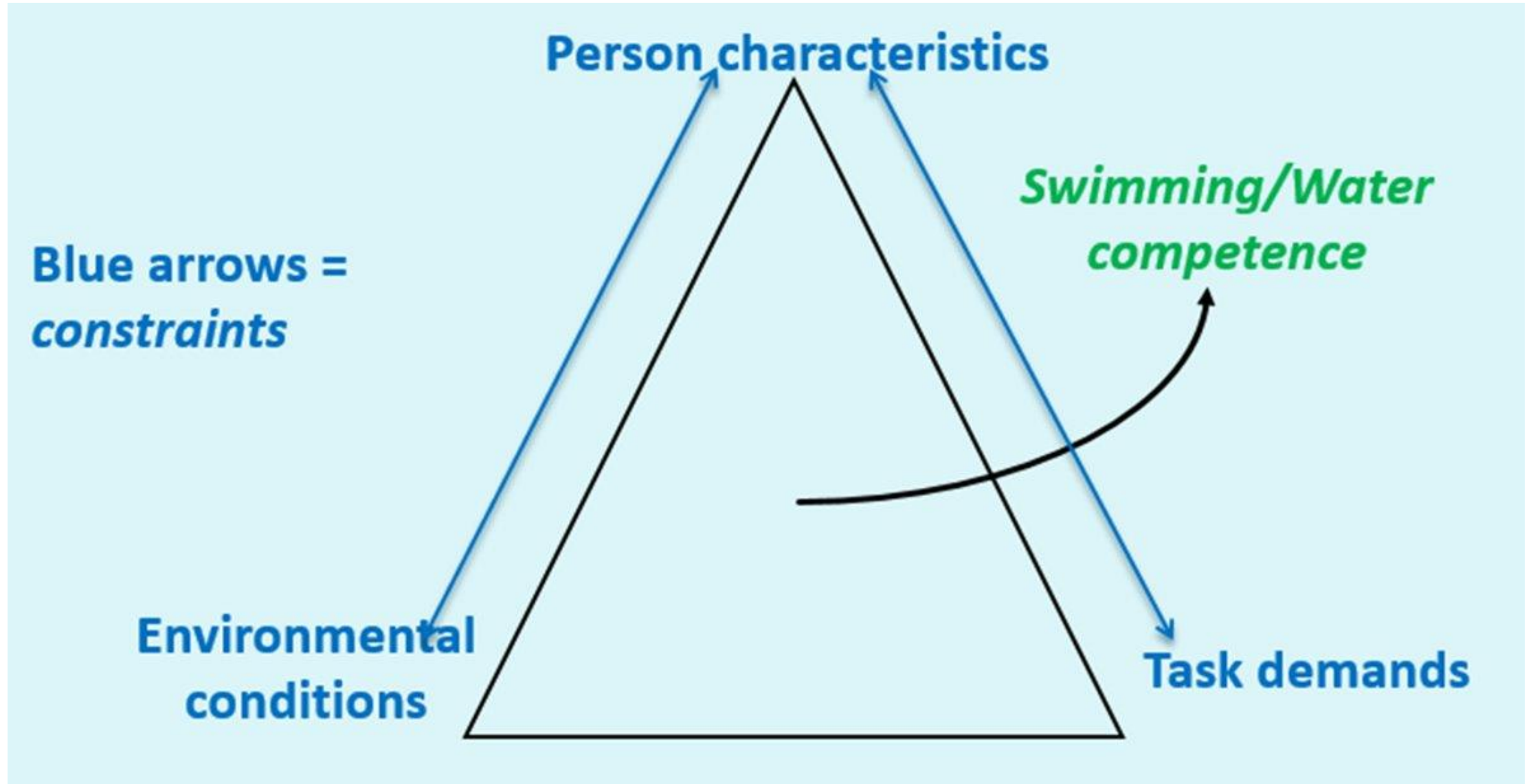
Drowning Percentage by Activity



Why do people drown?



Newell's Dynamic Constraints Model (1986)



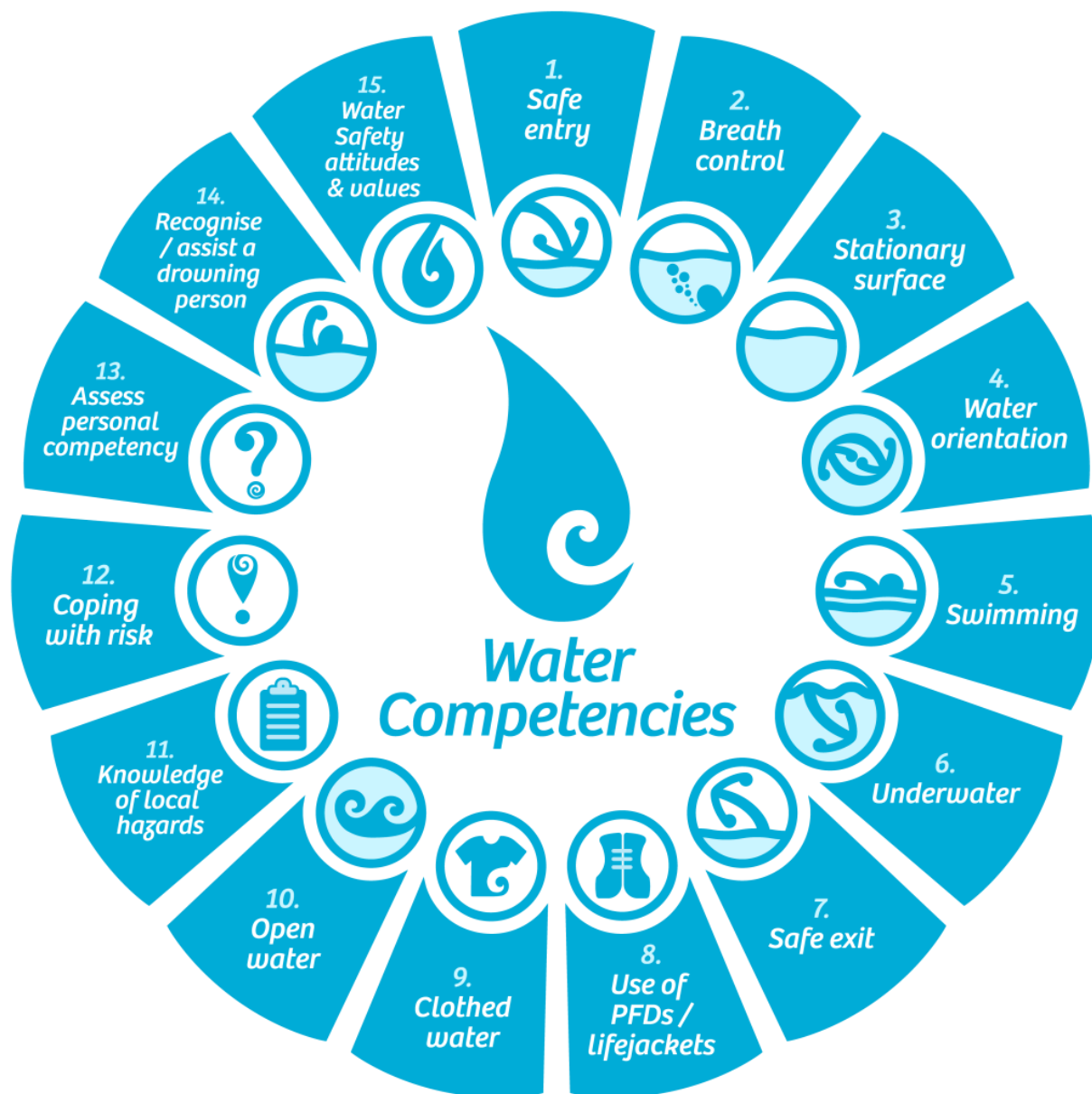
Perceived Aquatic Competence

What is 'real'?

Findings show that there are reality gaps between what people think they can do and what they can actually do, these gaps are exacerbated in open water settings (Stanley, T. 2021).

15 Water Competencies

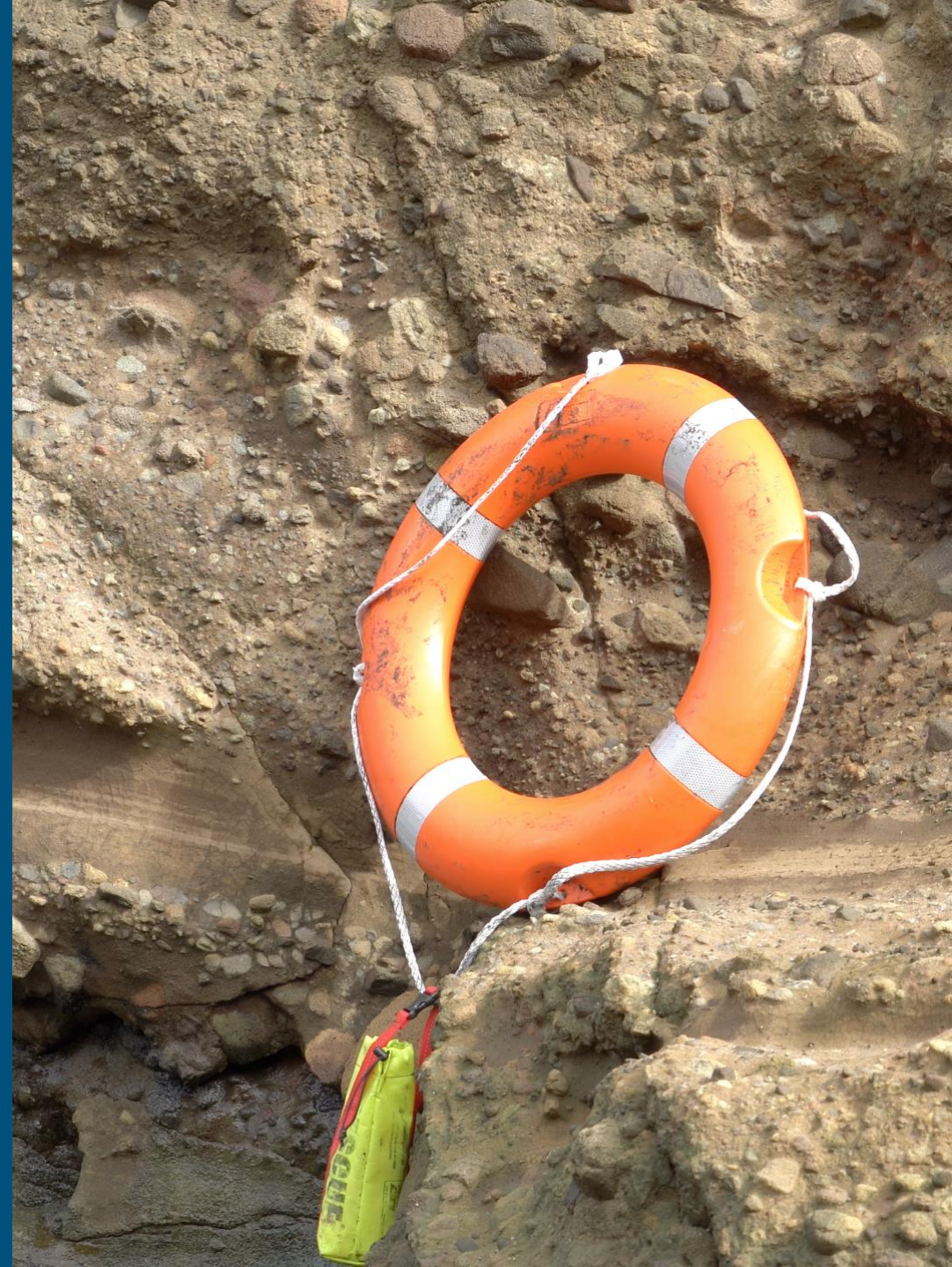
- **Skills**
- **Knowledge**
- **Attitudes**
- **Behaviours**



Learning Water Competence in Practice



Drowning Prevention Information



DPA Resources

Teacher resource and guide

WAI SURVIVAL

An aquatic education resource
for secondary schools

**Drowning
Prevention
Auckland**
education • research • advocacy

Free

Adult Water Safety

See more...

Free

안전한 바위 낚시 (Safer Rock Fishing in Korean)

See more...

Free

更安全的矶钓 (Safer Rock Fishing in Mandarin)

See more...

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Early Childhood Water Safety

See more...

Free

Water Safety for Children

See more...

Free

Safer Rock Fishing

See more...

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**Tikanga Marutau Wai
Mō Te Hapori Māori**

See more...

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Water Safety E-Learning Teaser

See more...

Free

Water Safety for Youth and Young Adults

See more...

How water competent are you?

Are you able to make the best decisions for your own safety and that of others, when in and around water?



Drowning Prevention Auckland

education • research • advocacy



Through a range of innovative and enjoyable learning opportunities we can help you, your whānau, your community and workplace to be safer around water.

For further information:

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