



SURF LIFE SAVING SOUTH AUSTRALIA, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH RENMARK PARINGA COUNCIL, TO LAUNCH PILOT 'RIPPERS' PROGRAM IN RENMARK

Surf Life Saving South Australia (SLSSA), in partnership with Renmark Paringa Council, is thrilled to launch the brand-new Rippers program in Renmark this summer.

Based on the well-known 'Nippers' program run at beaches across South Australia, Rippers is specifically designed for children aged 5-12 and aims to teach essential water safety and survival skills in a river-based environment.

The six-week program will cover river awareness, core lifesaving skills, emergency procedures and water sport skills in a safe and supportive environment where participants can grow their confidence in and around the water.

The program has been funded by the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing through the Active State Collaboration Program.

Minister for Recreation and Sport Katrine Hildyard MP said "We're so excited about the Rippers program launching along the Murray River. We know how beneficial being involved in Nippers is for young people's physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing, as well as their sense of belonging, and we have no doubt that Rippers will similarly benefit kids in the whole community and future generations".

"Learning to be safe in and around our beautiful coastal and inland waterways is crucial for everyone in South Australia. Empowering young people in regional and river communities to be part of Rippers will mean they can access this education in a fun, welcoming and inclusive environment that has the potential to create a lifelong, safe engagement with water activities."

The Mayor of Renmark, Peter Hunter, said "We are pleased to bring the SLSSA Rippers program to Renmark and offer a fun, exciting and educational experience for our youth".

"Rippers will assist children to learn vital water safety skills and help build a sense of community belonging".

SLSSA Club and Member Development Manager, Georgia Brazenall, said SLSSA is proud to introduce this free, specialised program, which will be delivered by experienced and accredited trainers.

"We created Rippers because we saw a gap in services and programs for children to learn water safety in the Riverland, with recent floods particularly seeing a lack of access to this education," Miss Brazenall said.

"Our team is committed to providing greater access and resources for families in regional and inland areas, so this is a great step forward as we look to fulfil our vision of zero preventable deaths in South Australian waters."

The Renmark program will take place on Sundays from 9:00 – 11:00am, commencing Sunday 18 February and finishing Sunday March 24.

Rippers enrolments are now open, with parents able to book in at:
<https://www.surflifesavingsa.com.au/rippers>

All media enquiries can be directed to: Tim Tol, Acting Chief Executive Officer on 8580 3000 or email council@renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au