



Sharon Grierson MP
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SAVING LIVES FROM WATER ACCIDENTS

Labor's Water Safety Policy released today will boost the great work of organisations like Hunter Surf Life saving and is designed to reduce lives lost through water accidents.

In Newcastle, with our beautiful coastline and beaches, water safety is vital.

Novocastrians love the water, but sadly accidents still occur and many need to call on the services of our wonderful Hunter Surf Lifesavers.

In the last 12 months our Hunter Surf Lifesavers have performed 266 rescues and over 5,000 preventative actions.

I commend the work of the more than 2,000 men and women in Newcastle who work tirelessly to help make our beaches a safe and fun place.

Labor will invest in water safety with \$2.2 million over 3 years to adequately fund a National Water Safety Plan and other water safety programs that have been abandoned by the Howard government.

The Water Safety Plan supports pool life guards, surf life saver and Austswim teachers around Australia. These programs play a vital role in rescue and accident prevention and must be adequately supported.

Labor will also provide funding for training courses for parents to look after their toddlers and for water safety teachers in the Austswim program.

There is nothing more tragic than the loss of a child. Too many of our children are lost each year through drowning. Labor will invest in programs like that of the Hunter Surf Life Saving to ensure better training and a better future for our children.

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