

RECOGNISE INEQUALITY

Why does it matter?

Most of us aspire to be fair and just. Acknowledging that opportunities and obstacles to swimming are not experienced equally by all is the foundation upon which we can begin to understand and take action to tackle inequality.

We know some groups face additional challenges when it comes to accessing swimming lessons, clubs and squads. This results in many groups being underrepresented in the Australian swimming community. These groups include people who identify as LGBTQIA+, people who are culturally diverse, those on low income, First Nations people, those with disability and more.

When these factors overlap, the obstacles accumulate faster. This is known as intersectionality. It means that someone who belongs to more than one of these groups might find it even harder to take part in the swimming community.

Where does it happen?

Some examples of barriers that may be faced by different groups within the community, include:

- Trans athletes may be banned from competing in elite-level competitions, making younger and community-level trans athletes also feel unwelcome.
- Many Australians cannot afford swimwear, equipment and pool/membership fees and may not have cars or fuel to get to training.
- A person with disability may need to travel twice the distance to find a suitable program or facility.
- Swimming's competition structure (requirement to compete as male or female) does not cater to people who are gender diverse.
- A migrant may have come from a culture in which water is feared.
- A swimmer with limited ability may feel the club culture is too elite and not welcoming.



**LEVELLING
THE
DECK**

Everyone deserves to swim

Step 1:

How can I learn more?

To understand more about these inequalities, a crucial first step is to listen to the experiences, stories and viewpoints of people who aren't in our usual circle or swimming community. For more information, check out Levelling the Deck's 'Understand' area (by clicking the button below) to hear the experiences of diverse voices from the Australian swimming community.

Understand >

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Everyone Deserves to Swim

