

Media Release

– For Immediate Release –



7 March 2025

I understand the Journal is covering tomorrow's announcement at Oasis re. the Safely Engaging with Water Program, and wanted to share some quotes from **Deputy Mayor, Cr Sophie Tan, who will be in attendance.**

Please see below:

"Programs like Safely Engaging with Water are absolutely vital for our community. Insights from Life Saving Victoria show that over the past decade, 36 per cent of drowning fatalities involved people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. That's a heartbreaking statistic and one we must work to change.

"The Safely Engaging with Water program at Oasis in Dandenong is an important initiative by Dr Harpreet Kandra and we are proud to host it in our community.

"Water safety is essential, especially for our multicultural community where many people may not have had the chance to learn these vital skills before.

"Spending time at the beach, by the river, or at the pool is such a big part of Australian life and we want everyone to enjoy the water safely.

"This program does more than teach water safety. It builds confidence and creates opportunities for people to connect with others in a welcoming and supportive environment.

"By equipping adults with these important skills, we are not just keeping our community safe, we are empowering people to fully participate in water-based activities with confidence and peace of mind."

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