St Hilda's Aquatics Program Proposition

1 Strategic Intent Summary

St Hilda's Aquatics is the aquatic program operated by St Hilda's School for St Hilda's students and swimmers from the broader community. It provides opportunities ranging from water confidence and participation through to high performance and competitive swimming, allowing swimmers to participate at the level suited to their ability, interests and goals.

Supported by the St Hilda's new World Aquatics certified 50-metre swimming pool, the program brings together learn to swim, squad swimming, school sport and HPE curriculum to support swimmers at all levels of development and competition. The separately incorporated St Hilda's Aquatics Club provides opportunities for swimmers to participate in club meets and affiliated competitions and to support all levels of athlete development and representation.

The St Hilda's Aquatics program is designed to:

- build water confidence, swimming capability and lifelong participation
- provide clear pathways from learn to swim through to squad swimming and competition at all levels
- support students' health and physical education
- enable swimmers to pursue performance goals through professional coaching and appropriate training opportunities
- provide quality aquatic services to the broader community
- operate in a manner consistent with the School's values, standards and commitment to student safety and wellbeing

St Hilda's Aquatics approach is based on the complementary objectives of participation and performance.

Aquatics program structures, fees, operating hours, squad levels and services may change over time in response to participant demand, facility capacity, financial sustainability, staffing and the strategic priorities of St Hilda's School.

2 Our Aquatics Offering

2.1 Participation

St Hilda's seeks to make swimming accessible to participants of different ages, abilities and aspirations.

Participation opportunities include:

- Learn to Swim programs, building water confidence, safety and foundational swimming skills for all swimmers
- School-based Health and Physical Education, including curriculum swimming and aquatic activities for St Hilda's students

- School sport and development programs, supporting skill development and participation in competitive swimming and levels of representation for St Hilda's students

These programs are intended to encourage confidence, enjoyment, skill development, achievement of goals and an ongoing connection with swimming and aquatic activity.

2.2 Performance

St Hilda's Aquatics provides a structured pathway for swimmers from within and beyond the St Hilda's School community who wish to develop their competitive swimming performance.

Performance opportunities may include:

- professionally coached squad programs
- differentiated training groups based on ability, development and performance
- structured pool-based training
- selected gym-based strength and conditioning sessions
- opportunities to compete through the St Hilda's Aquatics Club
- participation in appropriate club, school and representative swimming competitions
- progression and performance planning led by qualified coaches

St Hilda's Aquatics aims to help swimmers reach the highest level of performance supported through its coaching expertise, facilities, squad structure and competition opportunities.

3 Our Performance Position

St Hilda's Aquatics is a quality participation and performance swimming program. It is not intended to operate as a fully integrated high-performance institute.

The School's performance offering is centred on:

- professional swimming coaching
- well-structured squad programs
- access to a quality 50-metre training facility
- selected strength and conditioning opportunities
- club and school competition pathways
- a positive environment that supports commitment, discipline and continuous improvement
- pathways to regional, state, national and international competition.

Where a swimmer requires coaching, training, allied health or other performance services beyond those available through St Hilda's Aquatics, these services are to be arranged independently by the swimmer or their family, knowing that we will work in conjunction with external coaches where appropriate.

This approach allows St Hilda's Aquatics to support meaningful performance outcomes for individual athletes while maintaining a sustainable program that is appropriate to the purpose, resources and broader responsibilities of the School.

For St Hilda's students,

- St Hilda's School may also provide educational flexibility and pastoral support for swimmers at an elite level through the Athena Program, subject to the program's eligibility and selection requirements. Athena supports students in balancing significant sporting commitments with their education. For further information, please refer to the following link: Athena Program - St Hilda's School
- Students on Swimming Scholarships must represent the St Hilda's School through our School Sport pathways.

4 Participant Pathway

The St Hilda's Aquatics program provides a connected pathway that allows participants to progress according to their ability, readiness and goals:

- Water familiarisation, buoyancy and mobility skills
- Stroke development, correction and endurance
- Competitive squads and performance
- Competition through school swimming and/or the St Hilda's Aquatics Club
- Higher-level performance through partnerships and personalised programs

Participants may choose to swim for recreation, fitness, personal improvement or competition. Progression is determined by factors including swimming competency, training readiness, commitment, age and the professional judgement of the teaching and coaching team. Progression is not based solely on competition results or individual preference.

5 Community Participation

St Hilda's School regards its external learn to swim, squad and club-related activities as an important service to the community.

Subject to program capacity and eligibility requirements, these opportunities are open to both:

- students of St Hilda's School
- children, young people and other participants from the broader community

All participants are expected to comply with applicable program conditions, behavioural expectations, safety requirements and facility rules.

The availability of community programs does not alter the School's primary purpose as an educational institution. The School retains discretion over program availability, participant numbers, facility use and operational priorities.

6 St Hilda's Aquatics Club

The St Hilda's Aquatics Club provides a pathway for eligible swimmers to participate in club swimming and representation at competitive meets.

6.1 Roles of the School and Club

The Club is a separately incorporated legal entity with its own committee, governance obligations, memberships and financial responsibilities. Its purpose is to support competitive swimming opportunities associated with St Hilda's Aquatics.

The School and the Club work collaboratively. However, their respective roles must remain clear:

- the School operates the aquatic facility, learn to swim and squad programs
- the School employs or engages the relevant Aquatics staff and coaches
- the Club supports club membership, affiliation and participation in relevant swimming competitions
- the Club is responsible for its own governance, statutory and financial obligations
- use of the School's name, facilities, branding and other resources remains subject to School approval and any agreed arrangements

6.2 Identity, Branding and Uniforms

St Hilda's Aquatics should have a clear and recognisable identity while remaining aligned with the School's overall brand, values and reputation.

St Hilda's Aquatics and Club uniforms may include an appropriate Aquatics identity, provided that:

- the design remains consistent with the School's brand and presentation standards
- the relationship with St Hilda's School remains clear
- School and Club uniforms are appropriately distinguished where required
- sponsorship recognition is approved by the School
- no uniform item, logo, colour, design or branding element is introduced or materially changed without formal approval

All proposed uniform changes must follow the School's formal change-control process and receive the approval of the Principal before production or use.

Detailed uniform requirements are contained in the separate St Hilda's Aquatics Uniform Guide, which should be read with this framework.

6.3 Governance and Program Standards

St Hilda's Aquatics will be managed in accordance with the School's established governance and operational requirements, including:

- child safety and safeguarding
- participant health, safety and wellbeing
- risk management
- privacy and photography consent
- financial management and program sustainability
- appropriate use of School facilities, branding and intellectual property

7 Measures of Success

The success of St Hilda's Aquatics will be assessed through a balanced set of indicators, including:

- participation in learn to swim, squad and community programs
- swimmer progression and retention
- the quality and safety of program delivery
- student and community engagement
- achievement of individual and team performance goals
- opportunities for success at St Hilda's School and Aquatics Club level competitions
- participant and family feedback
- effective collaboration between the St Hilda's School and Aquatics Club
- responsible financial and operational performance