Mathew Savage of North Curl Curl SLSC was visiting Narrabeen Lakes on Sunday 2 December when his Surf Life Saving skills came into effect.

After seeing commotion on the waters edge, Mathew approached a woman screaming for help, she could not speak English well and was panicking. Her seven year-old niece was missing in the murky, choppy water. She was last seen splashing and playing with her young cousin who had returned to shore alone.

Mathew gathered a group of people to assist in a search. He quickly instructed them to conduct a line-search in the water. Together the group waded through the area the girl had last been seen.

After five minutes he saw Peter Lendrum walking from the water carrying the missing girl who was unconscious in his arms. Peter was performing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation as he made his way to shore.

When he reached shore, his brother Tim and Mathew assisted with immediate three-person resuscitation while the paramedics were called.

The team continued resuscitation until paramedics arrived and transported her to Sydney Children’s Hospital.