



Memorandum

To:	All NSW Clubs and Branches
From:	SLSNSW
Date:	27 August 2018
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Subject:	Scholarship opportunity – Round 4 AIDR Emergency Management Volunteer Scholarships (closing 15 Oct 2018)

On behalf of the Federal Government, the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR) is administering the **Emergency Management Volunteer Scholarship, which is opening on 3 September 2018 and closing on 15 October 2018**. This million dollar scholarship fund recognises the complex service delivered by volunteers and the high-level skills and leadership required to respond to emergency situations.

Funding is available for the reimbursement of education and training costs for volunteers in an emergency management agency that wish to undertake studies in accredited units or courses in emergency and disaster management vocational training and education, and higher education. In addition, AIDR may agree to pay reasonable accommodation and travel costs that are essential for study and must be approved in advance.

The amount of funding depends on the level and type of qualification intended and the number of units of study intended to complete in the funding period, with the maximum amount capped as follows:

- **Up to \$12,000 for vocational education and training**
- **Up to \$25,000 for higher education**

The scholarship is available to approved applicants who are active volunteers:

- Australian citizens or permanent residents that reside in Australia
- Volunteer in an emergency management agency, that is either a:
 - member of the Australian Emergency Management Volunteer Forum (or an affiliate of) and/or
 - government or non-government agency with a defined role in state or territory emergency management arrangements.

Key points to note:

- Successful recipients must complete all studies identified in their scholarship agreement within the two-year period between 1 August 2017 and 1 August 2019, inclusive.
- Funding is a reimbursement on successful completion of study, i.e. course fees must be paid upfront by the applicant. For Round Four recipients, reimbursements for study cannot be claimed through the scholarship fund before Semester 1, 2019.
- Applications for whole courses or single or multiple units with a primary focus in emergency and disaster management will be considered. Diploma to Masters level courses or units will be considered more highly than lower AQF levels of study (it is unlikely that Certificate I-IV level Vocational Education and Training courses will receive consideration).
- Applicants for higher education courses and individual courses or Units of Competency must where possible list each unit and its date.
- Applicants planning to study Advanced Diploma or Diploma of Public Safety (Emergency Management) do not need to list the individual Units of Competency but must provide a start and end date these studies.
- The chosen vocational education or higher education provider must be accredited in Australia; in most cases it is not possible for applicants to study overseas or undertake extensive fieldwork studies.
- The scholarship cannot be used to fund research degrees or associated expenses; it is only available for coursework.
- Applicants must have their application endorsed by the volunteer organisation; the CEO or their delegate is usually best placed to endorse this application in the form of a short letter (information on written reference and other documentation can be found at <https://aidr.org.au/programs/scholarships-for-volunteers/>)
- If an applicant holds a paid role (e.g. Branch administrator) and a volunteer role (e.g. volunteer lifesaver on weekends) within SLS, these two roles must be clearly demarcated in the application.
- If successful, before an applicant receives payments he/she will also need to participate in a verification of identity check, and provide proof of his/her current place of residence.

Further details and access to the application can be found at <https://www.aidr.org.au/education/scholarships-for-volunteers/>

Should you wish to apply, please contact Claire Bevis, SLSNSW Membership manager: cbevis@surflifesaving.com.au to discuss the endorsement of your scholarship application.

Kind regards

SLSNSW