



# Memorandum

<b>To:</b> SLSNSW Clubs and Branches
<b>From:</b> SLSNSW
<b>Date:</b> 18 January 2023
<b>Pages:</b> 1
<b>Subject:</b> Political Affiliations and the NSW Election 2023

With the NSW election due in March, clubs may be approached by political candidates for endorsement, or to be involved in media or social media activities, photoshoots etc.

We have seen instances where political candidates and parties have attempted to associate and leverage the Surf Life Saving brand by producing election material with candidates in patrol uniforms or with the red and yellow flags in the background, and clubs and members may be unsure what to do.

We would like to remind clubs and members that they must comply with SLSA's National Policy 6.25 – Non-Political and Non-Sectarian. The policy outlines that no Individual Member of SLSA (as such a Member), or Club shall:

- i. represent SLSA publicly in any political gathering or meeting unless it is to further the objectives of SLSA and is endorsed by the relevant managerial section of SLSA; or
- ii. represent or purport to represent SLSA in any publication or in, on or by any form of electronic communication or medium including but not only television, film, radio, social media or via the internet or in any other manner, express an opinion or belief which supports, or tends to support, or discredits, or tends to discredit, any political or religious party, activity or belief based on individual beliefs or on issues that do not relate to furthering the object of SLSA.

SLSNSW and SLSA would like to remind clubs and members that they should familiarise themselves with the SLSA Membership Form, Intellectual Property Policy, Social Media Policy, and Non-Political and Non-Sectarian Policy, which can be found in the SLSA Members Area [https://members.sls.com.au/members/document\\_library](https://members.sls.com.au/members/document_library).

The ACNC has also issued [past statements](#) urging charities to be aware of their obligations regarding political advocacy and campaigning. Charities must not:

- Promote or oppose a political party or a candidate for political office.
- Engage in or promote activities that are unlawful or that are contrary to public policy.

Charities that participate in these activities risk losing their ACNC registration.

If you have any questions on policies, please contact SLSA via [integrity@slsa.asn.au](mailto:integrity@slsa.asn.au).

Or for more information contact SLSNSW at [info@surflifesaving.com.au](mailto:info@surflifesaving.com.au)

