



Surf Life Saving Australia – BSEF Circular

Title:	Beach Safety Equipment Fund (BSEF) 2025/26
Document ID:	Circular 9/25-26 - Beach Safety Equipment Fund
Audience:	Clubs and State/Territory Centres
From:	Coastal Safety
Date:	21 July 2025
Subject:	Beach Safety Equipment and Patrol Uniform Fund Processes- 2025/26
Summary:	Notification to Clubs of Beach Safety Equipment Fund distribution processes for 2025/26, outlining key dates for eligibility period, invoicing and acquitting the funding.

Background

Surf Life Saving's mission is to save lives, build strong communities and develop great Australians. To support this, the Australian Government provides funding through the **Beach Safety Equipment Fund (BSEF)**, aimed at reducing water-related injuries and deaths by equipping Surf Life Saving Clubs (**SLSC**) with vital front-line equipment and Patrol uniforms.

It is acknowledged that Clubs have been extremely successful in replacing Lifesaving equipment since the inception of this grant. Therefore, this season it is encouraged that Clubs look to utilise these funds for Patrol Uniforms also which is key personal protective equipment for our volunteers. It is encouraged that all Patrol members not only receive the essential Patrolling uniforms, but also other items such as the rash shirt, jumper, tracksuit pants, wetsuit and various hats where available and feasible through this funding.

This funding aims to reduce the impact and occurrence of water related injuries and deaths in Australia. Outcomes of the program are closely tied to the priority areas outlined in the Australian Water Safety Strategy.

Since 2013, the BSEF has helped fund the purchase and upkeep of vital patrol equipment. For the 2025–26 season, SLSA has secured funding that will provide \$11,000 to GST-registered surf lifesaving clubs and \$10,000 to those not registered for GST.

SLSCs are encouraged to publicly acknowledge the Australian Government's support through events, media coverage, and sharing this with SLSA via bsef@slsa.asn.au.

Beach Safety Equipment Fund Process 2025/26

This funding **can only be used** to purchase vital first aid and frontline operational equipment as specified in the [SLSA Gear and Equipment List](#).

In addition to the above, the grant can be used to purchase an approved Lifesaving Patrolling uniform from the member store. The funding cannot be acquitted for uniform not approved for Patrolling purposes.

Please note that the timelines for this year's BSEF process differ from those used in the 2024/25 season. Full details for the 2025/26 process are outlined at the end of this circular.

To be eligible for the 2025/26 BSEF, clubs must have already completed the acquittal process for the 2024/25 period.

SLSCs that have not acquitted their 2024/25 BSEF funding will not be eligible.

Key Dates Timeline

BSEF 2025/26 Process	Key dates
Gear, Equipment and Patrol Uniforms purchased within the specified periods are eligible for acquittal under the BSEF. A Tax receipt must be provided for all purchases.	Purchasing Period: 1 May 2025 to 1 April 2026
SLSCs must invoice SLSA via: BSEF Invoice form	Invoice the due date: 31 August 2025
Payment will be made via electronic transfer into the SLSC's designated bank account outlined in invoice.	Funds Distributed: September-October 2025
SLSCs must complete Acquittal by submitting tax receipts to the BSEF Acquittal Form 2025/26 .	Due Date: 1 May 2026

SLSA Invoice

The BSEF Invoice from clubs must include the SLSC's bank details. If the bank details have changed, a deposit slip (or equivalent) for the new account must be included in the SLSC invoice form. GST-registered SLSCs should invoice for \$11,000, while non-GST registered clubs should invoice for \$10,000, with no GST applied.

To ensure a smooth invoicing process between clubs and SLSA, please upload a bank statement header in the invoice form on if your SLSC's bank details have changed since the last grant period. Submit via [BSEF Invoice form](#).

Gear and Equipment

All gear and equipment purchased must adhere to SLSA's policies regarding endorsed providers and/or be included in the [SLSA Gear and Equipment List](#).

Any gear and equipment that has not been covered in the SLSA Gear and Equipment List must be approved by the SLSA Coastal Safety Team prior to purchase.

Terms and Conditions

In consideration of receiving the grant, SLSCs must adhere to the terms set out below:

1. SLSCs must be compliant and affiliated with their respective State/Territory Surf Life Saving entity (**State Centre**). Please refer to your SLSC's State Centre for detailed compliance requirements necessary for affiliation. If the State Centre advises Surf Life Saving Australia (**SLSA**) that a SLSC is non-compliant, all BSEF payments will be withheld until the Club is compliant and affiliated with the State/Territory Surf Life Saving Association.



Note* SLSCs who have not acquitted previous funding will not be eligible to such time as this has been completed.

2. SLSCs must invoice SLSA via the BESF Club Invoice Form 2025/26 by **31 August 2025**. GST registered SLSCs should invoice for \$11,000. SLSCs that are not GST registered will invoice \$10,000 without GST applying.
3. First aid and rescue equipment purchased must comply with SLSA 's policies on endorsed providers and/or appear in the SLSA Gear and Equipment List. Items outside this list must be confirmed with SLSA before purchase.
4. Tax receipts for purchases must be submitted via the BESF Acquittal Form 2025/26 by **1 May 2026**. Failure to provide tax receipts shall result in all allocated funding being repaid to SLSA for redistribution. SLSCs will also be ineligible for ongoing funding for the remainder of the program.
5. SLSA reserves its rights to recover funding that has not been acquitted according to the Terms and Conditions of the BESF, as required by the Government.
6. All gear and equipment purchased by the SLSC must be updated in SurfGuard selecting the 'BSEF' checkbox.
7. Equipment purchased through the BSEF must be retained by the SLSC for a minimum of 3 years (excluding first aid consumable products).
8. Should the actual total cost incurred purchasing equipment be more than the proposed costs, SLSA will not be responsible nor obliged to pay any monies additional to the notified grant amount.
9. The BSEF monies must not be used for any purpose other than that for which the grant was approved.
10. SLSCs must promote the grant through their SLSC communication channels and participate in promotional media opportunities that could be generated through the program. Copies of media, government engagement with local MPs and other promotions are to be provided to SLSA.

Further Information

For more details, contact the Coastal Safety Team at bsef@slsa.asn.au.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the BSEF Acquittal?

The acquittals form part of the funding agreement requirements with the Australian Government. They provide a measure of assurance that the funds have been used for their intended purpose and in accordance with the BSEF Terms and Conditions listed in this circular.

Where can I access the BSEF Acquittal Form?

Clubs can access the Acquittal via the [BSEF Acquittal form](#).

When is the acquittal due?

Clubs must submit the Acquittal Form with tax receipts by **1 May 2026** to comply with the BSEF reporting obligations and to remain eligible to receive funding. Surf Life Saving Clubs can purchase vital front-line equipment and Patrol Uniforms from 1 May 2025 – 1 April 2026 for \$11,000 if GST registered or \$10,000 if non-GST registered.

Note: Failure to submit the acquittal by the due date will result in SLSA requesting the return of the full funding amount. It may also result in future funding from the BSEF being withheld.

Who can complete the acquittal?

Delegated club administrators are to complete the BSEF Acquittal process. The administrator must ensure that the club's acquittal form adheres to the BSEF Terms and Conditions listed in this circular. If required, an alternate club officer can review the acquittal information prior to submitting the form.

Can funding be accumulated by the club for the next Financial Year?

No. Funding **cannot** be accumulated and must be spent in accordance with the BSEF Terms and Conditions outlined in this circular.

What if the total funding amount is not spent?

If the total funding amount is not used to purchase gear, equipment and Patrol uniforms in accordance with the funding agreement, SLSA will provide details on the process to return unspent funds.

Note: Do not return any funds until the club receives advice from SLSA.

Can BSEF be spent in conjunction with other funding?

Yes, an item can be part funded by BSEF in conjunction with other funding or grants (e.g. \$20,000 for Side-by-Side vehicle acquitted using BSEF and State [other] funding).

Note: It is not permissible to receive payment from multiple funding grants for the same item or expense. For instance, if a rescue board costs \$5,000, it is not allowed to receive \$5,000 from BSEF and another \$5,000 from state funding. This practice, known as double-dipping, is prohibited. It is important to distinguish that BSEF funding is separate and distinct from any State/Territory funding or grants.

Is the BSEF inclusive of GST?

No, GST is not included in the funding amount. GST registered clubs should invoice for \$11,000. Clubs that are not GST registered should invoice for \$10,000 without GST applying. Clubs must invoice SLSA via the form by 31 August 2025.

What items *cannot* be purchased or acquitted using BSEF?**Items that are not eligible to be purchased from the Beach Safety Equipment Fund.**
(List is indicative, not a full exclusive list).

- Racing Boards (as opposed to approved rescue boards)
- Water Safety Uniforms
- Infrastructure/Club Maintenance
- Logbooks
- Second-hand equipment and Uniforms
- Surf Sports Uniforms
- Club Uniforms
- Non-approved Uniforms

The below items are eligible to be purchased subject to approval by States Lifesaving Services (Written approval by State is to be provided to SLSA).

- Rescue Watercraft (RWC)
- Drones (UAV)
- Repairs and servicing of approved Lifesaving equipment is permitted if approved by your State centre (as mentioned). The intent of the grant is to provide new equipment, therefore you must demonstrate to your State centre that all Lifesaving equipment is new and you believe servicing and repair costs can be justified and therefore supported.

The following list is indicative and is **not** a full exclusive list:

If the equipment isn't listed on the SLSA Gear and Equipment List, can we still purchase it?

Contact SLSA via email (bsef@slsa.asn.au) prior to purchasing the equipment so it can be assessed.