

Volunteer Leader Development Programs 2025/26

Expressions of Interest



Overview

Following successful pilots in March and June 2025, Surf Life Saving NSW (SLSNSW) is excited to open expressions of interest for two further Volunteer Leader Development Programs, designed to support and develop existing and future leaders in Surf Life Saving.

We are seeking expressions of interest from motivated volunteers aged 18+ who are already on club or branch executive teams, or plan to nominate for one of these roles in the coming season/s. It is designed for members of any age who have had little-to-no previous leadership development training, and who are keen to build their skills and confidence as a volunteer and/or club leader.

The program aims to provide participants with an opportunity to better understand their own unique strengths and growth areas as a leader, and to begin developing the knowledge and skills to lead in a way that supports volunteer motivation, satisfaction and retention, and which enables the achievement of team goals and drives continuous improvement at their club.

The program draws on current research, exploring known leadership challenges within SLS and the skills that future leaders will need to address these.

Program Details

Venue: The Branksome Hotel & Residences, 60 Robey St, Mascot NSW 2020

Dates: Friday 5 December (1:30 pm) – Sunday 7 December 2025 (12:30pm)

or

Friday 20 March (1:30 pm) – Sunday 20 March 2025 (12:30pm)

Eligibility

Any member who meets the below requirements is eligible to apply for the program:

- Is a current financial member of a SLSNSW affiliated surf lifesaving club
- Will be aged 18+ when the program commences
- Is early-on in their personal leadership journey in Surf Life Saving with little-to-no previous leadership development training
- Holds a current role on a club or branch executive team, or has plans to nominate for one in the coming season/s

The program can cater for up to 25 participants.

Program pre-requisites

Prior to the program, successful applicants will be required to complete pre-program tasks including:

- SLS's Online Volunteer Leadership Program (60-90 minutes)
- An online questionnaire to generate an individual Strengths Profile (20-30 minutes)

Participant selection

We are looking for participants who are enthusiastic about helping their club to grow and thrive into the future, and who are keen to develop their leadership skills to enable them to achieve this goal.

Participants need to be endorsed by their club and branch; however, the final selection will be by SLSNSW. Only SLSNSW program volunteers and staff will see responses to the questions asked in the application form – clubs and branches will be provided with names only.

Consideration will be given to participant diversity when making selection decisions.

Participant fee

While this program is predominantly funded by SLSNSW, a nominal participant fee of \$300 is required, payable by the club or branch on behalf of the participants. By contributing to the program cost, the club and/or branch are demonstrating joint investment in providing participants with a meaningful leadership experience, enhancing commitment to the program, and ensuring active engagement from all participants.

The fee covers all expenses across the weekend, including flights, meals, transport and accommodation on Friday and Saturday night in a single room. Full attendance is a requirement for all participants at all sessions, and for Sydney locals, accommodation and parking will also be provided.

How to apply

If you are interested in and eligible for this program, we encourage you to apply. Please complete the [application form](#) at your earliest convenience before the application close date (see below).

The application asks for information about:

- Your current engagement with your club/branch
- Your leadership aspirations for the future, if known
- 1-2 things that you would like to tackle/improve in your club/branch (i.e. your leadership goals)

What	When	
	December Program	March Program
Applications close	Monday 27 October 2025 (9am)	Tuesday 27 January 2026 (9am)
Clubs and branches engaged in prioritisation if required	27 October-3 November 2025	27 January-2 February 2026
Applicants notified of outcome	Monday 3 November 2025	Monday 2 February 2026
Applicant acceptance	Monday 10 November 2025 (9am)	Monday 9 February 2026 (9am)

If applicants have not confirmed their acceptance by the acceptance date, their space will be offered to another participant.

Questions

If you have any questions regarding the program, please don't hesitate to contact Jordan Ingham Rhodes, SLSNSW Volunteer Engagement Officer (jinghamrhodes@surflifesaving.com.au).