

SLSNSW YOUTH STRATEGY



2025 – 2030

Mission Statement

'Empowering the next generation of surf life savers to become confident, skilled and responsible members of their community, while actively shaping the future of surf lifesaving.'

Engaging young members is essential to developing future lifesavers, leaders, and volunteers within Surf Life Saving NSW. Young people are seeking opportunities to build skills, confidence, and friendships in a fun, inclusive environment where they feel heard and can see clear pathways for involvement and development. However, low retention rates, competing commitments, social pressures, and limited youth voice continue to impact participation.

Priority 1: Flexibility and Fun

Objective: Create an enjoyable, stress-free environment where youth can participate without the pressure to perform at elite levels and can fit SLS activities into their busy lives.

- 1.1 Promote participation over perfection to keep experiences fun, accessible and flexible.
- 1.2 Introduce more variety and enjoyment into youth offerings, including patrolling, surf sports, fitness activities, and social events.

Priority 2: Opportunity and Progression

Objective: Provide clear pathways for progression, ensuring youth feel motivated and engaged while developing essential skills and certifications

- 2.1 Ensure easy access to internal and external qualifications and certifications, with clear information on when and how to progress
- 2.2 Offer a range of opportunities that cater to different skill levels, from beginner to advanced
- 2.3 Create a structured progression system for youth to advance from basic roles to leadership positions

Priority 3: Community and Connection

Objective: Strengthen communication and create a welcoming and inclusive environment that values youth input and engagement at all levels

- 3.1 Promote communication between clubs, youth members, and the broader SLSNSW community
- 3.2 Establish clear points of contact for youth members, including mentors and club/branch youth coordinators
- 3.3 Create safe spaces for youth to connect socially and share their ideas and experiences
- 3.4 Ensure that youth voices are integrated into decision-making processes, from club-level to state-level planning
- 3.5 SLSNSW to provide clubs with support, guidance and resources enabling the creation of engaging and inclusive youth programs