Surf Life Saving Australia - Circular

Title:	Call for expressions of interest for: 1. YLWG Chair, 2. Deputy Chair and 3. State/Territory Representative Roles
Document ID:	Circular 21/26-27
Audience:	State/Territory Centres, YLWG Alumni
From:	Sandi Davis, SLSA Member Development Coordinator
Date:	7 September 2026

Summary

Nominations are invited from suitably qualified and experienced members for the following positions on the SLSA Young Leaders Working Group (YLWG):

1. YLWG Chair
2. YLWG Deputy Chair
3. YLWG State/Territory Representatives

Appointment to these positions will be approved by the SLSA Chair of Development for a two (2) year period.

A copy of the Terms of Reference for the YLWG can be found in Appendix 1.

Overview

The YLWG provides a valuable opportunity for young members to contribute their perspectives, experiences and ideas to help shape the future of Surf Life Saving. The group aims to ensure the voices of young people are represented and reflected in national discussions and initiatives.

The purpose of the YLWG is to:

- Provide a forum for young members to share their views and experiences.
- Contribute to discussions on issues affecting young people within Surf Life Saving.
- Assist in identifying opportunities to improve youth engagement, participation and development.
- Provide updates and insights to the National Development Advisory Committee.
- Participate in webinars and learning opportunities on a range of topics across all areas of the organisation
- Support the SLSA 2030 Strategic Plan Priorities and become a movement that celebrates our youth as the future of Surf Life Saving and ensure they are represented at all levels of our organisation.

Who Can Apply

Nominees for all positions must:

- Be aged 13–21 years at the time of appointment.
- Be active members of Surf Life Saving.
- Be willing to contribute their opinions, experiences and ideas.
- Demonstrate a commitment to participate for the duration of a two-year term.

1. YLWG Chair

Applicants for the YLWG Chair role should:

- Demonstrate strong leadership, communication and facilitation skills.
- Be confident in leading discussions and engaging with a range of stakeholders.
- Be willing to commit to the additional responsibilities required of the role, including preparation and follow-up between meetings.
- Be passionate about representing the views and experiences of young members at a national level.

- Be capable of contributing to national discussions and presenting on behalf of the YLWG to committees and advisory groups.
- Have previous experience as a member of the YLWG, or equivalent experience as a member or chair of a State/Territory committee or working group (preferred).

Note: The YLWG Chair will be appointed for a two-year term. An individual may serve on the YLWG for a maximum of four years in total, including any time previously served as a YLWG member.

As the YLWG Chair, you will:

- Lead and facilitate YLWG meetings.
- Drive discussion, participation and agreed outcomes.
- Monitor and progress actions between meetings.
- Provide updates and reports to the National Chair, Development.
- Represent the YLWG as a member of the National Development Advisory Committee for the duration of your term.
- Raise, present and advocate for YLWG initiatives, feedback and recommendations at national meetings.
- Present YLWG updates and recommendations to other national committees and groups as required.
- Act as the primary youth representative and spokesperson for the YLWG.

2. YLWG Deputy Chair

Applicants for the Deputy Chair role should:

- Demonstrate strong leadership, communication and facilitation skills.
- Be confident in leading discussions and engaging with a range of stakeholders.
- Be willing to commit to the additional responsibilities required of the role, including preparation and follow-up between meetings.
- Be passionate about representing the views and experiences of young members at a national level.
- Be capable of contributing to national discussions and presenting on behalf of the YLWG to committees and advisory groups.
- Have previous experience as a member of the YLWG, or equivalent experience as a member or chair of a committee, advisory group or working group (preferred).

Note: The Deputy Chair will be appointed for a two-year term. An individual may serve on the YLWG for a maximum of four years in total, including any time previously served as a YLWG member. Appointment as Deputy Chair does not automatically result in appointment as Chair at the conclusion of the term.

As the YLWG Deputy Chair, you will:

- Support the YLWG Chair in facilitating YLWG meetings.
- Assist in driving discussion, participation and agreed outcomes.
- Monitor and progress actions between meetings.
- Be available to lead discussions and chair meetings as required in the absence of, or at the request of, the YLWG Chair.
- Be a proxy for the YLWG Chair at the National Development Advisory Committee meetings as required.
- Support the development and presentation of YLWG initiatives, feedback and recommendations at national meetings.
- Present YLWG updates and recommendations to other national committees and groups as required.
- Act as a key youth representative for the YLWG and support the Chair in representing the views and experiences of young members.

3. State/Territory Representatives

A maximum of two representatives from each State/Territory may serve on the Young Leaders Working Group (YLWG) at any one time. Members serve on rotating terms, meaning there may be only one available position for your State/Territory in a given year.

Nominees are encouraged to have experience serving on a club, branch (where applicable), or State/Territory committee or working group. However, prior committee experience is not a requirement, and members with a broad range of experiences are encouraged to apply.

Successful State/Territory nominees will be expected to:

- Attend online meetings held for approximately one hour every two months.
- Actively contribute to discussions and working group activities.
- Represent the perspectives of young members while drawing on their own experiences.

Selection Process

The final Working Group will be selected with a strong focus on diversity, including:

- Representation from metropolitan and regional/rural areas.
- Gender balance, with a target of 50:50 male and female representation.
- Cultural diversity.
- A broad range of experiences across Surf Life Saving.

Further Information

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Appendix 1

Surf Life Saving Australia Terms of Reference	
Young Leaders Working Group	
Authorised By:	Development Advisory Committee (DAC)
Purpose:	To represent the views, needs, concerns, values, and ideas by engaging young members to shape the future of the organisation for the next generation.
Roles:	• Validate the need for young members to have a voice in the future of SLS and its offerings. • Contribute to the development of existing programs and the creation of new relevant programs for members. • Facilitate national collaboration and promote shared responsibility for improvement in learning and development initiatives. • Ensure national standardisation and consistency within learning and development. • Contribute to the development of national learning and development resources and programs. • Attend to any matters as referred by the SLSA Board, SLSA CEO, and other SLSA Committees. • Promote and advance evidence-based approaches to learning and development. • Consider strategic and operational issues relating to learning and development and make recommendations based on research and discussion of best practice.
Authorities and Limitations:	• Can make recommendations to the Chair of Development on all youth related development matters. • The working group and its members must refer all SLSA matters for public comment to the SLSA CEO. • The working groups deliberations and recommendations are confidential.
Composition:	The Committee shall be comprised of: ▪ YLWG Chair ▪ YLWG Deputy Chair ▪ 14 state/territory representatives (2 per state/territory) ▪ Non-voting: SLSA Young Lifesaver of the Year (for the term of their award) ▪ Non-voting: SLSA Young Volunteer of the Year (for the term of their award) ▪ Non-voting: SLSA Youth Athlete of the Year (for the term of their award) ▪ Non-voting: SLSA representative who will act as secretariat. *Note 3:* Visitors and/or observers may attend meetings by prior consent of the Chair.
Reports to:	SLSA Chair of Development, in conjunction with the Young Leaders Working Group Chair will ensure that the working group functions properly, and that there is full participation during and outside of meetings and that effective decisions are made and carried out. SLSA will provide a representative who will act as secretariat and ensure that the working group is conducted according to the Terms of Reference. They will maintain accurate minutes. The Young Leaders Working Group Chair must encourage and support the members, remain objective, and facilitate group work and discussion. The Young Leaders Working Group must maintain a line of communication to the SLS Chair of Development.
Level of Delegation:	• The Young Leaders Working Group has no delegation for approval of expenditure. • The Young Leaders Working Group can make recommendations to the SLSA Chair of

	Development.
Skills	Members appointed to the Young Leaders Working Group will be state/territory representative who are reflective of the youth membership and an interest in: ▪ Aged 13-21 years when selected ▪ Inclusivity and diversity ▪ Communication ▪ Technology ▪ Growing a better organisation for our members
Responsibilities of Representatives	• The main function is to provide a national youth voice and perspective. • To attend meetings regularly as required and actively participate in the groups work. • To represent the interests of their fellow youth members, fully and accurately to the best of their ability. • To maintain commitment to the values of the SLS movement through all deliberations. • To judge each issue on its merit with particular reference of benefits to the movement and the public. • To address matters only related to the working group purpose and responsibilities and defer other matters as necessary.
Quorum:	The quorum for any working group meeting shall be at least five (5) members (excluding SLSA employees), consisting of representatives from at least four (4) different States/Territory.
Meeting Schedule:	Meeting's to be held bi-monthly (every two months). At least four times, and up to six times annually; and/or as directed by the DAC.
Term:	2-year term for all state/territory representatives, Chair and Deputy Chair positions. An individual may serve on the Young Leaders Working Group for a maximum of four years in total.
Review	The effectiveness and membership of the Young Leaders Working Group will be reviewed every two years.
Provision of Recommendations:	All listed members, excluding the Chair and SLSA staff, shall be entitled to contribute to any recommendation at all meetings of the Young Leaders Working Group at which they are present in person, or by proxy. The Chair shall have the right to determine the final recommendation where a consensus cannot be reached.