

Terms of Reference – SLSNSW Young Leaders Working Group

1. Role/Purpose

The SLSNSW Young Leaders Working Group ensures young members have a meaningful voice in shaping the decisions, priorities and future of Surf Life Saving in NSW.

This Working Group will ensure youth perspectives are considered in decisions, programs and initiatives that impact young members, while providing young leaders with the opportunity to proactively identify issues, opportunities and areas where youth voice can strengthen direction, decisions and outcomes of SLSNSW.

The Working Group will play an active role in supporting and driving the implementation of the SLSNSW Youth Strategy and promoting meaningful youth engagement at Club, Branch and State level.

2. Term

This Terms of Reference (TOR) is effective from October 2026. The Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually by the Chair and members of the SLSNSW Membership Standing Committee in conjunction with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Young Leaders Working Group.

3. Membership

The Working Group will consist of:

- 22 Branch representatives (2 per branch) aged 14-22 years when selected AND
- 2 NSW representatives on the SLSA Young Leader Working Group (their term on the SLSNSW Working Group will reflect their SLSA Young Leaders Working Group term)

Each year, the SLSNSW Young Surf Lifesaver, Young Volunteer and Youth Athlete of the Year recipients will be invited to join the Working Group for a 12-month term following their recognition at the SLSNSW Awards of Excellence.

Each year, The SLSNSW Junior Lifesavers of the Year winners will be invited to join the working group for a minimum 12-month (maximum 24-month) term following the SLSNSW Junior Lifesaver of the Year Program.

A Chair and Deputy Chair of the Young Leaders Working Group will be identified by the Chair of the Member Services Standing Committee and endorsed by the Membership Standing Committee.

Each working group member will have a two-year term limit, with a maximum of two terms per member (four years in total).

The SLSNSW Membership Team will take on secretariat duties for this working group and have a non-decision-making role. The working group is also able to bring in external or internal subject matter experts and guests as required.

4. Skills

Members will be appointed to the Young Leaders Working Group based on merit and will represent their Branch. Their skills will reflect the diversity of youth membership across NSW and members will demonstrate a genuine interest in improving the experience of young members across SLSNSW.

5. Quorum

The quorum for any working group meeting shall be at least twelve (12) members (excluding SLSNSW employees), consisting of representatives from at least four (4) different branches. To ensure balanced representations across NSW, a minimum of 2 metropolitan branch and 2 country branches must be included. *Country Branches (FNC, NC, MNC, LNC, FSC) and Metropolitan Branches (HUN, CC, SNB, SYD, ILL, SC).*

Meetings may proceed without quorum; however, no formal decisions may be made. Any items requiring endorsement will be carried forward until quorum is achieved.

6. Reporting

The Young Leaders Working Group will provide advice and recommendations to the Chair and/or the SLSNSW Member Services Standing Committee and may be asked to contribute to matters being considered by the SLSNSW Board, Standing Committees or relevant staff and working groups.

Where appropriate, the Working Group may recommend (via the Chair of the Membership Standing Committee) that particular matters be referred to other SLSNSW committees, working groups or areas of the organisation for further consideration or action.

The Working Group should be engaged early in the development of matters that significantly affect young members wherever practicable, rather than solely being asked to provide feedback once decisions or initiatives have been developed.

The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Young Leaders Working Group may be invited to attend the SLSNSW Membership Standing Committee as a guest, where appropriate, to provide updates on the Working Group's priorities, discussions, questions, recommendations and decisions, and to raise matters requiring broader consideration.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

The working group will:

- Provide a strong and **representative youth voice** to SLSNSW on matters that impact, or are important to, young members.
- Proactively **identify issues, opportunities and emerging priorities** affecting young members.
- **Provide advice, feedback and recommendations** on matters referred to by the SLSNSW Board, Standing Committees, staff or other relevant groups.
- Support and help drive the implementation, review and ongoing development of the **SLSNSW Youth Strategy**, ensuring its priorities remain relevant to the needs and experiences of young members.
- Contribute to the **development and review of existing programs, resources and initiatives**, and identify opportunities for new and relevant ways to engage, develop and retain young members.
- **Advocate for meaningful youth participation** by creating opportunities for young members to



contribute to discussions, projects, decision-making and leadership at Club, Branch and State levels.

- Encourage **collaboration between young members, clubs, Branches and SLSNSW** and promote shared responsibility for improving the experience and engagement of young members.
- **Seek and consider the views and experiences of the broader youth membership**, recognising that Working Group members represent perspectives beyond their own individual experience.

8. Meetings

The working group will meet at least two times (and up to 6 times) annually either virtually or face to face.

9. Amendment, Modification or Variation

Recommendations for amendments to the Terms of Reference can be made at any time. However, amendments must be endorsed by the Chair of the Membership Standing Committee.

Key Dates

What	When
Expression of Interest Open	24 September 2026
Expression of Interest Close	19 October 2026
Branches engaged in prioritisation	23 October 2026
Names reviewed and Endorsed by the Membership Standing Committee	10 November 2026
Applicants Notified of outcome	13 November 2026