



## SLSA Rescue Medal (Recognition) - Circular

<b>Title:</b>	SLSA Rescue Medal
<b>Circular No:</b>	72/21-22
<b>Department:</b>	Coastal Safety
<b>Date:</b>	2 May 2022
<b>Audience:</b>	Clubs, Lifesaving Services, State & Territory centres, Australian Lifeguard Services
<b>Summary:</b>	Lifesaving recognition program

### BACKGROUND

Surf lifesavers and lifeguards provide an essential service to communities throughout Australia, performing many exceptional rescues and providing first aid in emergency situations, which are over and above normal duties. These actions showcase excellence in lifesaving training, skills and procedures, which deserve special recognition.

The Surf Life Saving Australia Rescue Medal (SRM) program provides the opportunity to recognise the efforts of surf lifesavers and lifeguards, while not limiting it to specific months.

The SRM aims to recognise excellence in lifesaving and service delivery, measured against industry best practice and operating procedures. It is not to encourage unnecessary risk, neglect safety considerations or Standard Operating Procedures.

The program is designed to:

1. Increase the recognition and promotion of surf lifesavers, SLS clubs, Australian Lifeguard Service and lifesaving services after an incident; and
2. Increase the number of worthy Meritorious Awards.

**Note:** The SRM is a separate recognition program to the SLSA Meritorious Awards. All nominations submitted for a SLSA Rescue Medal will automatically be considered in the selection of Meritorious Award recipients.

### NOMINATION PROCESS

Clubs, Australian Lifeguard Service and lifesaving operation services (ie RWC, Helicopter, JRB etc) are to nominate using the [SLSA Rescue Medal online nomination form](#).

All nominated rescues/incidents must be performed inside a designated time period i.e. rescue/incident that occurs in:

PERIOD	PERIOD DATES	NOMINATIONS CLOSE	AWARD PRESENTATION
Period 1	1 March – 31 August	10 September	December
Period 2	1 September – 28 February* <i>*Would change for leap year</i>	10 March	June

### States/Territory Review

All nominations will be provided to SLSA directly and subsequently reviewed by the applicable State/Territory from which they occurred in. States/Territory have eight (8) days to review applications and may advise any concerns with the application for the panel to note. A maximum of eight (8) nominations from each State/Territory, for each period, will be accepted in the final review.



The following is the process for the SLSA Rescue Medal:



#States/Territory have eight (8) days to review and provide comment.

## NOMINATION GUIDELINES

### Eligibility

- Rescues, first aids (or other lifesaving actions) conducted during or outside of patrol hours, year round, on or off the beach. These should be considered above that of 'Business as Usual'.
- All nominees are to be current members of SLSA, employees of the Australian Lifeguard Service or a lifesaving service.
- All nominations are to be received by SLSA on or before the applicable closing date for the determined eligibility period.
- No late correspondence will be entered into. Late nominations **will not be eligible** for the SRM, but can be recognised by the Branch or State/Territory independently or nominated to the SLSA Meritorious Awards program if appropriate.
- All nominations are to be received on the official 'SLSA Rescue Medal' application.
- States/Territory reserves the right to nominate any outstanding rescue/incident inside the designated time period.
- SLSA and the States/Territory reserve the right to promote details of rescues and the nominated rescuer(s) internally and externally in promotion of SLS services/clubs/members and the SRM program.
- Nomination for the 'award' serves as agreement to the conditions as stated above.

### Supporting Documentation

The following documentation should be provided with the nomination:

- Incident Report Log (or equivalent in some states)
- Supporting statements (eg. Police, Ambulance, Public Witness statements)
- Information or reports of rescues from media agencies
- Copy of the patrol log (where applicable)

### Criteria

The following areas form the basis of evaluating each nomination:

1. Application of Skills and Resource Utilisation
2. Response to situation, what was done and how this went beyond 'business as usual'
3. Environmental Conditions
4. Any bravery or other aspects of notation

## SELECTION COMMITTEE

The SLSA Rescue Medal Committee shall be determined by the Board appointed Chair Lifesaving, with the General Manager Coastal Safety as Executive Officer to this committee. A total of eight (8) SLSA Rescue Medals will be awarded for each period. The selection of a medal recipient(s) is final and there will be no correspondence entered into.

## RECOGNITION

SLSA Rescue Medal recipients will receive a medallion and citation.

### Presentation

The SLSA Rescue Medal will be assessed twice per year with awards to be presented at forums to be held in June\* and December\* each year. The presentation of awards may take place at a nationally hosted event, or be provided to States/Territory for presentation with appropriate representatives within their local area.

*\*Note, dates may vary subject to availability of key officials, however will be close to these periods.*



States/Territory may choose to issue local awards outside of the two national forums that will be held each year (eg. monthly, quarterly, annually, etc.). The presentation of a State/Territory award does not mean they will be a recipient of a SLSA Rescue Medal, as these will be determined independently from any State/Territory selection process that may be in place.

## Timing

Period 1	1 March – 31 August	Notes
<a href="#">SRM Nominations close</a> (Who: Clubs/Services/States)	10 September	Extra time to allow end of month incidents to be submitted
Review and selection completed (Who: Coastal Safety)	30 September	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collate and send to committee</li> <li>2. Meet and discuss</li> <li>3. Confirm those successful</li> <li>4. Acknowledge all applications and distribute outcome letters</li> </ol>
Certificates and Medal details prepared (Who: Coastal Safety, Public Affairs)	1 October – 30 October	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Certificate summary for each recipient is written and confirmed</li> <li>2. Print and frame certificates</li> <li>3. Organise and engrave medals</li> </ol>
Media and communications (Who: Public Affairs, with support from Coastal Safety as required)	1 October – 22 November	Publish mini stories of a number of the selected SRM recipients
Presentation (Who: SLSA, States/Territory)	1 December* <i>*Date subject to change</i>	Canberra/or provided to State/Territory for presentation

Period 2	1 September – 28 February	Notes
<a href="#">SRM Nominations close</a> (Who: Clubs/Services/States)	10 March	Extra time to allow end of month incidents to be submitted
Review and selection completed (Who: Coastal Safety)	30 March	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collate and send to committee</li> <li>2. Meet and discuss</li> <li>3. Confirm those successful</li> <li>4. Acknowledge all applications and distribute outcome letters</li> </ol>
Certificates and Medal details prepared (Who: Coastal Safety, Public Affairs)	1 April – 30 April	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Certificate summary for each recipient is written and confirmed</li> <li>2. Print and frame certificates</li> <li>3. Organise and engrave medals</li> </ol>
Media and communications (Who: Public Affairs, with support from Coastal Safety as required)	1 April – 22 May	Publish mini stories of a number of the selected SRM recipients
Presentation (Who: SLSA, States/Territory)	Mid June* <i>*Date subject to change</i>	Canberra/or provided to State/Territory for presentation

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For questions relating to the SLSA Rescue Medal, please contact Lifesaving Services Coordinator, Sandi Davis via [sdavis@slsa.asn.au](mailto:sdavis@slsa.asn.au).