

Circular

Title:	SLSQ Peer Support Officer Course – Applications Open
Document ID:	130.08.17
Department:	Membership Development
Audience:	All Branches; Clubs; Staff State Committees and Panels
Summary:	Surf Life Saving Queensland is conducting a two-day <i>Peer Support Officer</i> Course, to be held at Surf Rescue House on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 September 2017 . This circular outlines the application process for interested members to express interest in the course.
Date:	3 August 2017

Surf Life Saving Queensland operates in an environment which at times may be prone to the occurrence of traumatic events. These can include many types of incidents both on the beach and within the Surf Club surroundings.

Members may experience many different reactions to these events, and Clubs need to offer support to members by ensuring they are looked after in a fair and sensitive manner. Peer Support Officers are able to offer individual support to members at any stage.

While we have a strong network of Peer Support Officers, we are looking to provide a balance across services and within regions. Ideal candidates are easily approachable and able to communicate effectively with people across a range of demographics, and have some lifesaving experience.

YOUR ROLE AS A PEER SUPPORT OFFICER WITHIN SLSQ:

Following exposure to stressful events, your role as a Peer Support Officer may include:

- Providing initial support to club members and their 'significant others' to alleviate symptoms and encourage a prompt return to independent functioning and coping in their lives to enhance the natural recovery processes
- Assisting club members to understand the impact of a stressful event
- Educating club members on stress reactions and natural coping mechanisms and strategies they possess
- Assistance in the referral process to mental health professionals for further counseling for club members when required
- Play a role in the organising and staging of formal psychological first aid sessions for club members when deemed necessary.

PRE-REQUISITES:

- Be a **minimum** of 18 years of age
- Hold a **current** Working with Children Card
- Very good communication skills
- Approachable
- Must be able to maintain client confidentiality
- Be able to provide emotional support
- Must have a commitment to be called on at any time when a traumatic event has occurred. This includes SEQ Peer Support Officers being rostered during Patrol Season times.

COURSE DETAILS

Date: Saturday 9 - Sunday 10 September 2017

Venue: Surf Rescue House, South Brisbane

Times: Applicants **MUST attend both days**

TO APPLY

Numbers to attend the course are strictly limited therefore your prompt application is required.

If you are interested in becoming a Peer Support Officer for Surf Life Saving Queensland, please fill in the online application form by **no later than close of business Friday 18 August 2017:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/slsqpeersupport>

Successful applicants will be advised following referee checks.

If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact the Membership Development Department (Brenda Lofthouse or Troy Draman) on 3846 8000 via email blofthouse@lifesaving.com.au or tdraman@lifesaving.com.au

Kind Regards,

PETER WHITE

State Peer Support Advisor
Surf Life Saving Queensland