

# Brisbane Lifesaving Service

## Who we are

Formally launched in 2011 with an initial membership of 33, Brisbane Lifesaving Service (BLS) is a Brisbane based volunteer surf lifesaving service. Members train in key lifesaving skills necessary to support clubs and deliver extra lifesaving services throughout South East Queensland, as well as supporting clubs to meet the obligation stipulated by their Patrol Service Contracts. Brisbane Lifesaving Service offers members of the community an alternative way to become engaged with surf life saving as volunteer. This initiative enables SLSQ to directly manage, and refine best practice methods of engaging and managing, volunteers as well as developing employees for our future.

Members of Brisbane Lifesaving Service are trained in all Surf Lifesaving awards including Bronze Medallion, Advanced Resuscitation, Spinal Management, First Aid, Basic Beach Management, IRB Crewman and Drivers, and Gold Medallion. Training takes place across a range of beaches and locations in order to ensure that members are capable and prepared to engage these skills under tough and unfamiliar conditions. Furthermore, members are acutely aware of all Surf Lifesaving policies and procedures, and trained to adhere to these regardless of their location or the equipment available.

## Services that may be available to assist clubs

Our primary purpose is to provide assistance to clubs in meeting the requirements of their Patrol Service Contracts. There are three primary ways that Brisbane Lifesaving Service can assist clubs across the coast in South East Queensland to achieve this.

Firstly, in some cases, Brisbane Lifesaving Service will be able to take on responsibility for an agreed number of patrols each month for one season, with a mid-season review. In this case, we will provide all members required on the agreed dates, generally we will require a club member to assist with inductions as we will use the club's facilities and gear to fulfil the patrol.

Secondly, in the event that providing a full patrol for a club is not possible, or not required, supplementary patrol members may be provided to alleviate the pressure on the club. For example we may provide 1 IRBD/Patrol Captain or 3 Bronze Medallion members etc. dependant on availability of qualifications within our members, and the requirements of the club.

Finally, from time to time and dependant on operational requirements, there may be the opportunity for clubs with an existing engagement with Brisbane Lifesaving Service to access some training and education through Brisbane Lifesaving Service.

## What we DON'T provide clubs

The purpose of Brisbane Lifesaving Service is to assist clubs in meeting the requirements of their Patrol Service Contracts where their current active membership is not sufficient to do so. This is intended as a short-term solution to assist clubs in refreshing and rebuilding their membership whilst planning for long-term sustainability in the future.

Brisbane Lifesaving Service cannot provide assistance to clubs on a one-off basis, or at short notice. Furthermore, we are unable to provide assistance to clubs to alleviate shortage of patrolling members as a result of camps, carnivals, or other sporting or social engagements.

## Some factors considered when assessing an application for BLS

- Total number of members and patrol groups at your club
- Requirements of your club's Patrol Service Contract
- Nature and length of request (i.e. IRBD, full or supplement patrol, full season etc.)
- Awards covered in each of your club's patrol groups (information obtained from patrol gap calculator)
- Other services already being offered by BLS, and other open applications
- Current number of BLS active patrolling members and awards held

## How to engage with BLS



## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. Can Brisbane Lifesaving members join surf lifesaving clubs?**

**A.** Yes – many members choose to maintain dual membership or transfer fully to another club. This is encouraged if members demonstrate interest in a club.

**Q. Can I call BLS at short notice to provide a fill in for a sick patrolling member?**

**A.** No – as there is a formal process involved with engaging BLS, support can only be provided to clubs that have completed this process. For further information please refer to the bottom of this document for the process.

**Q. Can Brisbane Lifesaving members patrol in a high surf environment (1m+)?**

**A.** Yes – our members are trained in a wide variety of surf conditions across a range of locations. This ensures that BLS Surf Lifesavers are able to confidently and capably engage their skills in Surf Lifesaving at any location using a range of craft.

**Q. Can current SLS members join Brisbane Lifesaving Service?**

**A.** BLS does not encourage members from other clubs to join. However, under certain circumstances members have transferred to BLS from an existing club due to varying reasons.

**Q. Can Brisbane Lifesaving members compete?**

**A.** No – BLS is a non competitive service with a strong focus on providing training and education for our members to support clubs in meeting their patrol obligations, and provide new services.

**Q. How can I get in contact with Brisbane Lifesaving Service?**

**A.** Call or email BLS Coordinator - Morgan Knowles - on 0447 557 682 or at [brisbane@lifesaving.com.au](mailto:brisbane@lifesaving.com.au)