



What is Surf Life Saving Australia?

Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) is Australia's major water safety and rescue authority and is one of the largest volunteer organisations in the country. Our mission is "to provide a safe beach and aquatic environment throughout Australia."

SLSA and its state centres provide patrol services on 400 of the 11,560¹ beaches around Australia's 36,735² km of coastline.

In addition to this core service and responsibility, SLSA also contributes to the community by:

- Training volunteer surf lifesavers and paid lifeguards to undertake rescues, administer first aid and take preventative actions to keep our beaches safe;
- Developing and implementing community and school education programs, including to regional and rural communities;
- Providing helicopter, jet and offshore rescue boat services;
- Managing and delivering surf sports events, including the Australian Surf Life Saving Championships.

SLSA is a volunteer organisation and our services are provided by surf lifesavers who complete surf patrols in their own time – usually a half-day patrol every 2 to 3 weeks.

Our total membership of almost 130,000 is spread across 305 affiliated surf lifesaving clubs in every Australian state and the Northern Territory.

Of these, around 37,000 actively patrol our beaches and almost 50,000 are 'nippers' (junior surf lifesavers aged from 5 to 13).

In the 2006-07 season, our volunteer members were involved in 9,318 rescues, taking to more than 530,000 the total number of lives saved since the formation of the original surf lifesaving association in 1907.

Surf lifesavers also provided 30,063 first aid services and undertook 203,337 preventative actions (that is, assisting people *before* they get into trouble in the surf) during the season.

SLSA provides around 70 per cent of paid lifeguard services contracted to local council or resort operators.

In 2006-07, Australian Lifeguard Service (ALS) lifeguards were involved in 2,218 rescues, 11,147 first aid treatments and 255,732 preventative actions.

SLSA is a charity and relies on the generous support of the public and our major corporate partners – DHL and Westpac, our major sponsors Telstra and Yamaha and our sponsors Kellogg Australia, Nivea, Willow Ware - and the Australian Government.

In 2007, SLSA celebrated one hundred years since the formation of the Surf Bathing Association of NSW.

September 2007

¹ Surf Life Saving Australia, Australian Beach Safety and Management Program. Includes 721 ocean beaches in NSW, 692 ocean and Pt Phillip Bay beaches in Vic and 1600 mainland beaches in Qld.

² Department of the Environment, Sports and Territories, *The State of the Marine Environment Report for Australia: Technical Summary*, Canberra, 1996, p.226