



# Surf Life Saving Australia – Circular

<b>Title:</b>	Powercraft Training for Women in Lifesaving – call for Expressions of Interest for Program IRB Trainers, Assessors and Facilitators
<b>Document ID:</b>	Circular 6/2023-2024
<b>Audience:</b>	State Education and Lifesaving Directors, State Education, Lifesaving Managers, Active Members
<b>From:</b>	Learning and Development
<b>Date:</b>	24 July 2023
<b>Summary:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Funding for IRB training programs specifically for women in key states NSW, QLD, VIC, SA, WA</li><li>Call for nominations for interested members who meet the selection criteria. <b>Closing date 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023.</b></li></ul>

## Introduction

The use of powercraft in surf lifesaving has increased the speed, efficiency, and effectiveness of rescuing people in distress. The IRB is an integral piece of rescue equipment, and is used for routine patrolling duties, water safety, and on-call Search and Rescue (SAR) operations.

For several years there has been a shortage of IRB Crew and Drivers within the membership, and many solutions and suggestions have been offered to alleviate this. There is also a significant underrepresentation of women who hold these Powercraft awards (see below table).

Award	Males	Females	Female as %
Bronze Medallion	37,258	19,277	34%
IRB Crew	15,332	5,661	27%
IRB Driver	3,547	672	16%
RWC	1,984	214	10%

SLSA have been successful in securing a grant from the [Geoffrey Evans Trust](#) to support the delivery of this training to female members aged 15-20 years. Research shows that women learn these skills very differently to men, and in Surf Life Saving NZ they have a very successful program Wahine on Water (Wahine meaning women). More locally there have also been Powercraft courses run specifically for women.

## What is the Program?

Specific women only IRB training programs will be delivered in conjunction with the following states – NSW, QLD, VIC, SA, WA. SLSA will fund the costs associated with the course and assist with ensuring that the outcomes are met. Each state training program could have up to 20 participants depending on the facilities available. Members and facilitators can travel to other states at their own expense to participate in a program.

## What are the benefits to the individual?

Participants will achieve their IRB Crew or IRB Drivers award in a specifically designed, women only training course, supported by SLSA. This isn't about equality of outcome, but equality of opportunity. The Powercraft space is not for everyone, and certainly not every woman. Females operate differently in an IRB – technique and mental wellbeing is everything and this needs to be trained differently. We can make a difference by offering the women in our movement the same opportunities to gain these awards, in a safe environment. The power of women training together is huge, and participants will be part of a supportive group of like-minded members who will assist each other through the course and become champions for each other ongoing.

## Who is the Program for?

The Powercraft Training for Women in Lifesaving program is a specific course supporting women, who are financial members of Surf Life Saving and meet the criteria below. As part of our commitment to LGBTQ inclusion, all female-identifying and non-binary members are welcome to participate.



Powercraft Training for all members is conducted regularly. Members outside the specified age group of this Program, and male participants (including non-binary members who feel more comfortable in male environments) are encouraged to contact their club or state/territory centre for upcoming training courses.

### **What is the Criteria for the Program?**

#### **Program Trainers, Assessors and Facilitators**

- ✓ Endorsed in the relevant trainer, assessor or facilitator award within your state.
- ✓ Meet the criteria for program participation (refer to 'Who is the Program for?' above)
- ✓ Willing to dedicate yourself fully to this Program for the duration.

#### **Timeline**

- |                               |                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Nominations due             | 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2023  |
| • Successful member contacted | 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 |
| • Training Courses Scheduled  | 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2023 |

### **What is the process if I am interested?**

Trainer, Assessor, Facilitator nomination form [Click here](#)

Please note:

- Course participants will be between the age of 15-20 years as per the guidelines of the Geoffrey Evans Trust Grant received. Course Trainers, Assessors and Facilitators have no age limit.
- The closing date for nominations is 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023. All nominations will be sent by SLSA to the relevant member state for endorsement on receipt.

### **Where can I find out more information?**

[IRB Crew Certificate Syllabus Document](#)

[Silver Medallion IRB Driver Syllabus Document](#)

Circular 7/23-24 Powercraft Training for Women in Lifesaving – call for Expressions of Interest for Program Participants - will be released once dates for programs are set with TAF's and states.

If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please feel free to contact Pamela Simon at [pamela.simon@sls.com.au](mailto:pamela.simon@sls.com.au)

Our thanks to the Geoffrey Evans Trust for their support of this training initiative.