



POSITION	LOCATION	DATE
Branch Peer Support Officer	Flexible	January 2024
REPORTS TO	Position Type	
Branch Director of Lifesaving SLSNSW Wellbeing Team	Volunteer Position	

PURPOSE STATEMENT
<p>Branch Peer Support Officers are responsible for supporting the mental health and wellbeing of patrolling members and staff by providing support, referrals and well checks following critical incidents primarily within their branch.</p> <p>Branch Peer Support Officers will work closely with the Branch Lifesaving Team and be tasked by the appropriate branch team member or the SLSNSW Wellbeing Team. Wellbeing information, support and resources will be provided in conjunction with SLSNSW.</p> <p><i>Note: SLSNSW Branch and State Duty Officers are not able to apply for a Branch Peer Support Officer position.</i></p>

KEY ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES	
Responsibility	Description of Responsibilities
Provide support to members/staff following critical incidents	<p>Work with the SLSNSW team to provide localised support to members and staff in person or via phone after a critical incident, applying the Psychological First Aid (PFA) principles. This may include being part of an on-call roster to attend onsite at a location within your Branch.</p> <p>Support Duty Officers by handling the wellbeing component of incidents. This may include member and staff support, scene management and bystander assistance.</p> <p>Provide wellbeing support associated with operational debriefs. Completing post-incident well checks in line with SLSNSW's Critical Incident Management Support Procedures.</p> <p>Provide support material as required and available from SLSNSW. Encourage and assist members and staff to connect with appropriate internal and external support services.</p> <p>Participate in relevant training and/or professional development activities, as arranged by SLSNSW to ensure knowledge and skills are maintained to an appropriate standard.</p>
Effective Recording and Reporting	Ensure record keeping is completed, following SLSNSW's operating procedures.

Member/Staff Engagement	<p>Promote a professional image of Surf Life Saving to internal and external stakeholders.</p> <p>Work with Lifesaving and Wellbeing teams to ensure effective delivery of post critical incident wellbeing support.</p>
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SELECTION CRITERIA	
Essential Criteria	Essential Knowledge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be over 18 years of age. • Working with Children Check (or willing to obtain). • Must be able to demonstrate an understanding of appropriate behaviours when engaging with Children/Young People. • Current drivers' licence. • Be a current, financial member or staff of SLSNSW. • Previous experience in crisis management or assisting the mental wellbeing of others and/or a professional qualification and experience in a mental health related discipline. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorough understanding of club and branch support operations and call out protocols. • Sound understanding and awareness of mental health. • Recognising the signs and symptoms of members and staff requiring support post-incident. • Comprehensive knowledge of support services available and referring individuals where necessary. • Self-awareness in relation to level of competence and any limitations. • Understanding of reporting and recording requirements of sensitive information. • Understanding of responsibilities around confidentiality including its limitations. • Strong awareness and application of Psychological First Aid (noting this is not the same as mental health first aid).
Essential Skills/Attributes	Desired Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong interpersonal communication and listening skills. • An empathic, approachable and non-judgemental demeanour. • Ability to manage composure during high stress situations. • Demonstration of a genuine commitment to support others. • Ability to build relationships and maintain appropriate boundaries. • Ability to maintain confidentiality and demonstrate trustworthiness. • Ability to identify and manage ethical concerns appropriately. • Sound stress management strategies and self-care routine. • Ability to seek assistance and support when required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous experience in a role supporting the mental health and wellbeing of others (e.g. peer supporter, HR role, counselling). • Previous experience in crisis management or assisting the mental wellbeing of others.

KEY STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIPS

SLSNSW Members, Duty Officers, Branch Directors of Lifesaving, SLSNSW Wellbeing Team.

Please note that due to the often-intense requirements of this position, we request that applicants review their personal and Surf Life Saving commitments before applying.

Surf Life Saving is committed to protecting children and young people from harm. We require all applicants that will work with Children/Young People to undergo an extensive screening process prior to appointment.