



Application for National Medal

Overview

The National Medal was established by the Commonwealth of Australia in 1975 as one of the original elements of the distinctive Australian system of honours and awards. The medal recognises long service in organisations that protect life and property at some risk to their members. The National Medal is available to Surf Life Saving Australia volunteers who are eligible with **a minimum of 30 hours each season, who have completed a minimum period of 15 seasons, from 18th September 1986.**

Eligibility

This award recognises the long service (completed minimum 15 seasons) of members of SLSA as:

- Patrol members
- Operational Members of Emergency Response Groups
- Jet/Offshore Rescue Boat Crew
- Jet/Offshore Rescue Boat Drivers
- Jet/Offshore Rescue Boat Skippers
- Rescue Helicopter Pilots
- Rescue Helicopter Aircrew
- Lifeguards (paid)

Patrol Members for the purposes of approval will be active members (including Reserve Active and Long Service) and lifeguards of Surf Life Saving Australia who:

- Meet the requirements of the annual proficiency test for SLSA Bronze Medallion for each season of eligible service; and
- Have completed the minimum rostered beach patrol hours / lifeguarding for each season of service or as a minimum 30 hours in each season of service.
- SLSA patrol hours are counted from 18 September 1986.
This is the commencement date for calculating eligible service at SLSA as outlined by the Commonwealth of Australia for National Medals.

Service by a member of SLSA as a Cadet member or Junior Activities member will not be recognised as eligible service for the medal.

Years of service in another approved organisation may be aggregated with service to SLSA in line with the medal guidelines. For more details please refer to FAQ's.

Classifications

A person who has been awarded the National Medal may be awarded a clasp to the Medal for each 10-year period of service beyond the original 15 seasons.



How to apply

- Applications should be made via the [SLS Members Area using 'Forms'](#).
- Applications may be lodged by either the member, or the member's current club/service.
- Hard copies may also be lodged direct to SLSA, however please ensure you have them approved by the club, branch (where applicable) and state centre before doing so. You should also retain a copy.
- SLSA will complete a list twice a year for submission to Government House. Timeframe for processing by the Government is generally 6-8 weeks. Final date for National Medal applications is 30 March & 30 August each year.
- Sufficient time should be given for the application form to be processed by branch (where applicable) and state centre. Please ensure that the following has been correctly completed, as incorrect information will result in return of applications:
 - Bronze Medallion number
 - Total Service Period
 - Qualifying Service Period
 - Details of each year's service
 - Signed declaration and authorisation

Privacy

Personal details collected by Surf Life Saving Australia are for the purpose of assessing the applicant's eligibility for the National Medal. With the exception of government agencies involved in administering the award the personal information will not be disclosed to other parties. You have the right to access the information held by Surf Life Saving Australia.

Further information

Further Information can be found at the National Medal website

<https://www.pmc.gov.au/government/its-honour/national-medal>

For specific questions, please contact SLSA via email on officereception@slsa.asn.au or phone (02) 9215 8000.



Application for National Medal

Application on Behalf of:

First and Middle Name:	Surname:
Male/Female:	Date of birth:
Deceased – Y/N:	
Name and Address where the award is to be sent:	
Point of Contact (Nominating Party):	Email Address (Nominating Party):
Phone Number (Nominating Party):	

Prerequisite Awards for Commencement of Service

Bronze Medallion (Please tick)	Other Eligible Award: (Please specify)
Club where the member gained this award:	Club where the member gained this award:
Date:	Date:
Award Number (if known):	Award Number (if known):

Declaration and authorisation to disclose information

I declare that the details I have given on this form are complete and correct.

I authorise the disclosure of any information provided in this application to the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat involved in the administrative procedures for this award. This includes the provision of your full name and the name of the club to be included in the Australian honours list.

Name:	
Signature	Date:



Only include years that proficiency was current and form part of eligible service.

A **minimum of 30 hours per season** must also have been achieved.

Qualifying Service Period Day and Month must be the same from commencement of eligible service to the last day of eligible service.

Total Service Period from: / / to / / (EXAMPLE: 18/09/1986 to 30/04/2003)

Qualifying Service Period: / / to / / (EXAMPLE: 18/09/1986 to 20/10/2001)

Service:						Other Service:					
Cumulative years	Service at:	Season	Membership Category	Prof Y/N	Patrol Hours	Cumulative years	Service at:	Season	Membership Category	Prof Y/N	Patrol Hours
		85/86						85/86			
		86/87						86/87			
		87/88						87/88			
		88/89						88/89			
		89/90						89/90			
		90/91						90/91			
		91/92						91/92			
		92/93						92/93			
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		05/06						05/06			
		06/07						06/07			
		07/08						07/08			
		08/09						08/09			
		09/10						09/10			
		10/11						10/11			
		11/12						11/12			
		12/13						12/13			



Cumulative years	Service at:	Season	Membership Category	Prof Y/N	Patrol Hours	Cumulative years	Service at:	Season	Membership Category	Prof Y/N	Patrol Hours
		13/14						13/14			
		14/15						14/15			
		15/16						15/16			
		16/17						16/17			
		17/18						17/18			
		18/19						18/19			
		19/20						19/20			
		20/21						20/21			
		21/22						21/22			



Endorsement

CLUB / SERVICE ENDORSEMENT	
Applicants current Club or Service:	
Club/Service Meeting Date:	
<p>I hereby declare that the above information is correct and that the applicant has completed the patrol/ employment obligations during the years as shown. Further, I have been authorised to endorse this application for National Medal, which has been endorsed at a club/service meeting on the date shown below.</p>	
Name of Club/Service Representative:	
Position:	
Signature:	
Date:	

BRANCH ENDORSEMENT (relevant states only)	
Name of Branch Representative:	
Position:	
Signature:	
Date:	

STATE ENDORSEMENT	
Name of State Representative:	
Position:	
Signature:	
Date:	



FAQS

If I hold a radio operator's award or first aid award am I eligible?

No. While all members contribute valuably to the organisation, the criteria for the medal stipulate that members must conduct activities in the organisation's primary function, and that this function will be in the area where members are exposed to risk in the course of performing that primary function. This has been defined for the purpose of the medal as listed above (see eligible service).

Do I have to have 100% patrol attendance to be eligible?

No. However, patrol members must have completed a minimum of 30 hours patrolling in each season of eligible service and have met minimum requirements (patrol obligations) as set by individual clubs and /or states which may exceed this minimum requirement. Lifeguards must also have worked on the beach for a minimum of 30 hours in each season of eligible service.

How do the proficiency requirements affect my application?

For beach patrolling activities you must have completed and passed a proficiency test for the Bronze Medallion during each year of eligible service. Lifeguards will also need to have completed the proficiency test equivalent to the Bronze Medallion for each year of eligible service

Can I combine service from one patrol service group to another?

Yes. If for example, you complete beach patrols as a "patrol member" (as described above) and Jet Rescue Boat patrols, you can combine service hours in both categories, e.g. you may have completed 15 hours on beach patrol and 15 hours on JRB patrols, so these hours can be aggregated. You may only count each calendar year as service despite completing activities in numerous activities, e.g. you cannot count 30 hours in beach patrol and 30 hours in Support Service patrols in the one year as two years of service.

If I'm a lifeguard supervisor or emergency coordinator, am I eligible to make an application?

You must have engaged in the organisation's "primary function" to be eligible. For example; a lifeguard supervisor whose duties are largely administrative will not be eligible. An emergency coordinator who attends rescues to co-ordinate the use of services (via radio etc.) will not be eligible. If however, the lifeguard supervisor or emergency coordinator is actively involved in on-beach activities (and exposed to risk by taking part in rescues etc.) as part of their role, and this is conducted in each year of eligible service, an application may be made.

Can I claim service prior to 18 September 1986?

Yes. As per regulation 14 of the national medal regulations ([https://www.pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/pmc/Honours/national-medal-regulations\(1\).pdf](https://www.pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/pmc/Honours/national-medal-regulations(1).pdf)) an award of the Medal may be made only by the Governor- General and only if:

(a) the person has given eligible service as a member of an approved organisation (or more than 1 approved organisation), for a period determined in accordance with regulation 18, that comprises:

(i) a single period of 15 years; or

(ii) periods that, in total, amount to 15 years; and

(b) at least 1 day of that eligible service was given:

(i) on, or after, 14 February 1975; and

(ii) on, or after, the approval date of that approved organisation (or at least 1 of those approved organisations); and

(c) a recommendation has been made for the award in accordance with regulation 16.