

Circular

Title:	Emergency Management Volunteer Scholarship
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Department:	Lifesaving Operations
Audience:	All SLSQ Clubs; All SLSQ Branches and All SLSQ Staff
Summary:	Federal Government Scholarship - Volunteers
Date:	06.06.2017

On behalf of the Federal Government the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR) will administer the new **Emergency Management Volunteer Scholarship**.

The million dollar scholarship fund has been established to recognise the complex service delivered by volunteers and the high-level skills and leadership required to respond to emergency situations.

Funding is available for the reimbursement of education and training costs for volunteers in an emergency management agency that wish to undertake studies in accredited units or courses in emergency and disaster management vocational training and education, and higher education.

The amount of funding depends on the level and type of qualification intended and the number of units of study intended to complete in the funding period, with the maximum amount capped as follows:

- **Up to \$12,000 for vocational education and training**
- **Up to \$25,000 for higher education**

The scholarship is available to approved applicants, being those that:

- Australian citizens or permanent residents that reside in Australia
- Volunteer in an emergency management agency, that is either a:
 - member of the Australian Emergency Management Volunteer Forum (or an affiliate of) and/or
 - government or non-government agency with a defined role in state or territory emergency management arrangements.

Key points to note:

- Funding is provided as a reimbursement on successful completion of the study, i.e. course fees need to be paid by the applicant up front.
- Applications for whole courses or single or multiple units with a primary focus in emergency and disaster management will be considered; a list of some applicable courses is available at <https://www.aidr.org.au/media/1646/study-guide-for-scholarships.pdf> (it is unlikely that Certificate I-IV level Vocational Education and Training courses will receive consideration in this round).
- The chosen vocational education or higher education provider must be accredited in Australia; in most cases it is not possible for applicants to study overseas or undertake extensive fieldwork studies.
- The scholarship cannot be used to fund research degrees or associated expenses.
- Applicants must have their application endorsed by the volunteer organisation; the CEO or their delegate is usually best placed to endorse this application in the form of a short letter (requirements for a written reference can be found at <https://www.e-award.com.au/2017/aidr/newentry/faqs.php>).
- If an applicant holds a paid role (e.g Branch administrator) and a volunteer role (e.g. volunteer lifesaver on weekends) within SLS, these two roles must be clearly demarcated in the application.

- It is anticipated there will be four rounds between 1 June 2017 and 15 October 2018, however this is subject to change:

Round	Open	Close	Outcome
One	1 June 2017	14 July 2017	25 August 2017
Two	4 September 2017	16 October 2017	27 November 2017
Three	2 April 2018	14 May 2018	25 June 2018
Four	3 September 2018	15 October 2018	26 November 2018

Further details and access to the application can be found at <https://www.aidr.org.au/education/scholarships-for-volunteers/>

Should you wish to apply, please contact [our office](#) to discuss the endorsement of your scholarship application.

Kind regards

George Hill ESM
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Surf Life Saving Queensland