



Surf Life Saving Australia – Circular

August 2003

Future Directions in SLS Education Information Paper

Document id 20/03-04	Audience Lifesaving, Education
Department Lifesaving	

Summary

In progressing SLSA's move into the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) of education, and its move to have SLSA awards nationally accredited, this paper has been developed to assist in the understanding of current developments and to note the future direction of SLSA education

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What is Vocational Education and Training (VET)?

The Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) provides a national framework for all education and training qualifications. The aim of the AQF is to:

- i) Provide consistent qualifications,
- ii) Encourage easier access to qualifications,
- iii) Provide flexible pathways for achieving qualifications.

The AQF covers all qualifications issued by the secondary schools sector, vocational education and training sector and the higher education sector. Under the AQF, qualifications issued in the VET sector are all based on the achievement of competency standards.



The qualifications within each sector are shown in the table below.

Schools Sector	Vocational Education and Training sector	Higher Education sector
Senior Secondary Certificate of Education	Advanced Diploma Diploma Certificate IV Certificate III Certificate II Certificate I	Doctoral Degree Masters Degree Graduate Diploma Graduate Certificate Bachelor Degree Advanced Diploma Diploma

Surf Life Saving Australia falls under the Vocational Education and Training Sector (ie workplace training).

The qualifications within each sector can be characterised by what the individual should be able to demonstrate upon completion. Each level of qualification listed above has clear guidelines on the knowledge and skill to be taught at that level. For example, the learning outcomes at a Certificate I level will be based around routine and predictable activities based on clear instructions. A Certificate IV level however, will be based on a broader knowledge base incorporating some theoretical concepts, while being able to take responsibility for your own outputs.

Registered Training Organisations (RTO)

To issue qualifications within the AQF you must be a Registered Training Organisation (RTO). Most State Centres and SLSA are now RTOs. Individuals and organisations can apply to become an RTO by meeting the Australian National Training Authority's (ANTA) standards of registration. These standards affect the RTO in numerous ways. In particular:

- o Systems for quality training and assessment
- o Compliance with state/ territory legislations

- o Effective administrative and record management procedures
- o Issuing of qualifications
- o Access, equity and client services
- o Compliance of RTO personnel
- o Learning and assessment strategies
- o Use of national and state/territory logos
- o Ethical marketing and advertising



As surf life saving moves its award structure towards accredited qualifications within the AQF and under its RTO status, a number of changes will need to take place. Most changes at an assessment level will include:

- o Collections of evidence and justification of assessment decisions (assessor work cards collected with Form 14, etc.)
- o Implementation of appeal process (appeal to the assessor in charge for candidates who are Not Yet Competent - NYC)
- o Provision of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)
- o Assessors holding industry assessment qualifications.

New Manual

The launch of the 32nd Edition of the Surf Life Saving Training Manual in August 2003 will see our base awards matching nationally accredited units of competency.

While the Bronze Medallion will always remain as the Bronze Medallion it will also be equivalent to a Certificate II in Public Safety.

Certificate II in Public Safety (Aquatic Rescue) and the SLS Bronze Medallion

Bronze Medallion

Industry Code	Unit of Competency	Manual Module
PJUAOHS001A	Follow defined occupational health and safety policies and procedures	Unit 1 – Safety and well being
XXXSAR010A	Apply surf survival and self survival skills	Unit 2 – Surf awareness and skills
PUAEME001A	Provide emergency care	Unit 3 – Anatomy and physiology Unit 4 – Basic first aid Unit 5 – First aid Unit 6 – Basic resuscitation Unit 7 – Resuscitation (CPR)
PUACOM001A	Communicate in the workplace	Unit 8 – Communications
PUAOPE002A	Operate communications systems and equipment	Unit 9 - Radio communications
PUASAR001A	Participate in a rescue	Unit 10 - Rescue techniques Unit 11 - Carries and support
PUATEA001A	Work in a team	Unit 12- Patrols

“On the job” module to gain Cert II

PUATEA004A	Work effectively in a public safety organisation	On the job training
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Questions and Answers

What has changed in the Bronze Medallion?

The SLS Bronze Medallion has not changed significantly. A number of national units of competency have been written to describe the work that surf lifesavers already do on the beach. The Bronze Medallion has had some content added to meet the public safety competency standards (see changes to manual further on in this paper).

Do I need a Certificate II to remain a Surf Lifesaver?

No. The SRC and the Bronze Medallion will remain the minimum standards for surf lifesavers and the Certificate II will not affect your ability to patrol.

When will the Certificate II in Public Safety (Aquatic Rescue) be attainable?

While the Bronze Medallion award syllabus meets the Certificate II competencies (with the final "on the job" unit), the qualification is currently passing through the final stages of approval by the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA). Once the qualification is endorsed to be provided in the national framework it will be added to each state's RTO scope of registration. Each state will have different roll-out timeframes for certification of the qualification, depending on their ability to meet the delivery standards under their RTO status.

If I hold a current Bronze Medallion how can I obtain the Certificate II in Public Safety (Aquatic Rescue)?

The process will be the same as the assessor upgrades; you will have a number of options.

Your state will advise you on when you can proceed with the options provided.

1. Upgrade workbook

You will be able to complete an upgrade workbook. This upgrade will cover additional content between the Bronze Medallion syllabus in the 31st edition SLS training manual and the Bronze Medallion syllabus in the 32nd Edition. Content on *OH&S*, *communications* and *working in a team* will be part of the upgrade. Each state will advise you when to complete this workbook.

2. Recognition of Prior Learning

Members who have the necessary skills and knowledge may make application to their State Centre for RPL (see the SLSA web site for an RPL guide).

3. Credit Transfer

You can also complete a credit transfer if you have a certificate from another organisation or a higher equivalent certificate.



How will the new “on the job” module be conducted?

The competency *Work in a Public Safety Organisation* can be completed after achieving your Bronze Medallion (first 7 units). It will complete the Certificate II in Public Safety units. The unit will be assessed by the completion of a log book. The log book should be completed over a number of patrols. It will contain the instructions for completion and should be signed off by your delegated club officer. Once complete, you should conduct an interview with an accredited assessor. Once certified competent, a Form 14 (or relevant state form) should be completed for the Certificate II in Public Safety. Once again your state will advise you when assessment in this area can take place.

Who can assess the Certificate II in Public Safety?

Only assessors with the *Plan, Conduct and Review* units of competency may assess nationally accredited units of competency.

Can an assessor who has not yet completed the Assessor units still assess the Bronze Medallion in the coming season?

The assessment of the Bronze Medallion will remain unchanged until your state is satisfied that enough assessors have attained the assessor units of competency and that the state is able to meet the 7 standards of registration. Once a state declares that its training will be conducted under the AQTF system then all assessments must be conducted by assessors with the accredited units.

How will Training Officers be affected by the change to VET?

Several states have already replaced the Train the Trainer course with the nationally accredited course BSZ404A – Train Small Groups (TSG). Several other states will roll out the TSG course within the coming season.

There is no requirement for existing Training Officers to upgrade to the TSGs qualification (although it is encouraged), however many may seek Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) to gain this workplace accredited unit of competency.

Once again, each state will provide details of the process once available.

How can current assessors obtain the Plan, Conduct, Review units of competency?

As part of the Public Safety Industry’s requirements, the assessment of the Bronze Medallion (that will be recognised as competency in the Certificate II) will require assessors to hold the minimum of:

- BSZ401A Plan Assessment
- BSZ402A Conduct Assessment
- BSZ403A Review Assessment

Several states have already replaced the SLS Examiners course with the nationally accredited units listed above. Several other states will roll out the above units within the next season.



All existing examiners who wish to assess accredited qualifications will be required to hold the above units of competency. This may be achieved in three ways:

1. Examiner Skill Upgrade

The below guidelines have been set by the National Board of Lifesaving for the transfer of current examiners to the *Plan, Conduct, Review* Assessment competencies. Examiners/Assessors must:

1. Have attended a previous SLS Examiners Course, ie post 1995 (certified by the Branch/State Director of Lifesaving/Education),
and
2. Currently be active and deemed competent as an SLS examiner (certified by the Branch/State Director of Lifesaving/Education),
and
3. Complete an update course (workbook and assessment). This may be conducted during an upgrade course conducted by your state centre or branch, or via correspondence in the form of a proficiency paper/upgrade workbook etc.

Upgrade workbooks must be assessed by assessors who are endorsed by the State Director of Lifesaving and are a holder of the *plan, conduct, review* units of competency, while also having relevant training and assessment experience.

Once completed, the Branch/State Director should complete a Form 14 (or relevant state form) for the Statement of Attainment in:

- o Plan Assessment
- o Conduct Assessment
- o Review Assessment

(Note: Skill upgrade course notes and workbooks are available on the SLSA Assessor web page).

It is important that your state informs you when to conduct this process.

2. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Examiners who have the necessary skills and knowledge may make application to their State Centre for RPL. An RPL guide is available on the SLSA web site under Education - SLSA RTO.

3. Credit Transfer

For examiners who currently hold the *Plan, Conduct, Review* units of competency or the Certificate IV in Assessment and Workplace training, you should provide a copy of these qualifications to your Branch/ State Director of Education/ Lifesaving by using the RPL/ credit transfer form.

4. Course Attendance

If examiners do not meet the criteria for any of the above options and wish to remain an active assessor, they should attend the Assessor Course under the new format.

Note: Examiners in SLS Victoria have already undergone many of the processes listed above.



What will the Certificate III in Public Safety (Aquatic Search and Rescue) look like?

Unlike the Certificate II in Public Safety, the Certificate III will be a combination of a number of SLSA awards. For example someone who has the Certificate II and then gains their FAC and Silver Medallion Patrol Captains awards may be eligible to gain the Certificate III in Public Safety (Aquatic Search and Rescue).

Certificate III in Public Safety (Aquatic search and rescue) 14 units (6 core + 8 Electives)

Industry Code	Unit of Competency	Manual Content	SLSA Award
PUACOM001A	Communicate in the workplace	Unit 8 SLS Training Manual	Bronze Medallion
PUAEME001A	Provide Emergency Care	Unit 3-7 SLS Training Manual	Bronze Medallion
PUAOPE002A	Operate communications systems and equipment	Unit 9 SLS Training Manual	Bronze Medallion
PUAEME002B	Manage injuries at emergency incident	First Aid & Emergency Care Manual	Senior First Aid Certificate
PUAOHS002A	Maintain Safety at an incident scene	Adv Lifesaving Manual	Beach Management
XXXSAR001A	Search as a member of an aquatic search team	Adv Lifesaving Manual	Beach Management

PUAOPE004A	Conduct briefings/ debriefings	Adv Lifesaving Manual	Beach Management
PUAOPE001A	Supervise Response	Adv Lifesaving Manual	Beach Management
PUACOM003A	Manage Information	Adv Lifesaving Manual	Beach Management
PUACOM002A	Provide services to clients	Adv Lifesaving Manual	Beach Management
XXXEMR007A	Conduct Risk Assessment	Adv Lifesaving Manual	Beach Management
PUAEME003A	Administer oxygen in an emergency situation	First Aid & Emergency Care Manual	Advanced Resuscitation Certificate
PUACOM012A	Liase with media at a local level	Adv Lifesaving Manual	Public Relations
PUACOM005A	Foster a positive organisation image in the community	Adv Lifesaving Manual	Public Relations



Will the Certificate affect other SLSA awards?

As a number of units of competency will be attached to most SLSA awards there will be some changes to the award syllabus. For example, additional material will be added to the Silver Medallion – Patrol Captain. This will allow the units *Supervise Response* and *Conduct Briefing and Debriefings* to be added. It will also raise our SLSA awards to the industry standard of education for certain job roles on our beaches.

When will the Certificate III in Public Safety (Aquatic Search and Rescue) be attainable?

Similar to the Certificate II, this qualification is currently passing through the final stages of approval by the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA). A number of core units are also being written (such as *Search as a member of an aquatic search team*) Some of the standard SLSA awards will change over the next 12 to 24 months as this qualification is introduced into the organisation. In its current form units may be obtained individually as *statements of attainments* until all core and enough elective units are available for delivery.

Roll out stages

RPL for the qualification may be obtained once the qualification is approved by ANTA and the State has RTO procedures in place to accommodate the qualification.

Attainment of individual units of competency

For existing units of competency (ie ones that have not recently been written) attainment is achievable once the state has the unit attached to their RTO scope.

Attainment of qualification via SLSA awards and course work

Members and individuals may obtain the qualification via course work once the various SLSA awards have been upgraded to accommodate the industry units of competency. This will be completed over the next 12 months.

Certificate IV in Assessment and Workplace Training (8 Units)

The Certificate IV in Assessment and Workplace Training comprises eight units of competency. Some states offer the full certificate by course work while others are currently offering four of these units; TSGs and the Assessor units. The full certificate may be achieved via the RPL process in most states. State centres will advise you of local arrangements. It is expected that the structure of this qualification will be changed in the next twelve months with a review currently underway across the industry.

Industry Code	Unit of Competency	Manual Module	SLSA Award
BSZ404A	Train small groups		TTT
BSZ401A	Plan assessment		Assessor
BSZ402A	Conduct assessment		Assessor
BSZ403A	Review assessment		Assessor
BSZ405A	Plan and promote a training program		
BSZ406A	Plan a series of training sessions		
BSZ407A	Deliver training sessions		
BSZ408A	Review sessions		



How will TSGs and the assessor units be conducted?

These courses will be conducted over three stages; a workbook, a seminar and the completion of a log book (on the job training). The workbook is self paced and must be completed prior to starting training (or assessments in the case of the assessor award).

Who can conduct the TSG's and Assessor courses?

SLSA has recently conducted a facilitators workshop for the facilitators of this qualification. The resources have been developed for the program and are available on the SLSA website. Each state will have a list of accredited facilitators for the program and all programs will be conducted under the state's RTO guidelines.