



SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc)

One Association - Many Values

JULY 2023

NEWSLETTER

To make sure you receive the SESVA Newsletter monthly, subscribe via the link: <https://ses-wa.asn.au/subscribe-to-newsletter/>

From the President

Hello to you,

It's always a pleasure to be able to communicate with our SES volunteers, partners, and supporters. Each day in each month allows for opportunities for us all. Many of these bring large personal, organisational, and community benefits. That's why we at the SES Volunteers Association exist and we are genuinely proud of you and what we do to support those initiatives.



We are now into a new financial year. I am hoping that some of the behind-the-scenes work we have completed will demonstrate the value of our orange machine to government and the community alike. We have so much to gain in growing the capability and resources to meet our communities' expectations now and in the future. It's very much like our orange personal protective clothing and equipment; one size does not fit all. We have sizes to fit individuals as we should with the community's needs in our management of the increasing risk of natural hazards impacts.

I am looking forward to the coming events that will allow our Association to interact with you, so please stay tuned for planned activities. I sincerely hope they will benefit all volunteers and the communities we work with and for in the future.

Being a new year, well a financial year, a thought for us all:

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. (Lao Tsu)

So, we have taken many steps, but this quote examines our future in the SES:

*The capacity to learn is a gift; the ability to learn is a skill; the willingness to learn is a choice.
(Brian Herbert)*

Thank you so much again and I look forward to our combined future.

Greg Cook, President.

2023 SESVA Elections — Management Committee

NOMINATIONS CLOSE—THURSDAY 13th JULY 2023

Download the nomination form at [SESVA Elections 2023 – SES Volunteers Association of WA \(ses-wa.asn.au\)](https://ses-wa.asn.au/SESVA-Elections-2023)

Opportunities

Check out our new Opportunities Section where we'll feature Sub-Committee position EOIs, Courses of interest to Volunteers, grant funding, casual vacancies and more.



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SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc.) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

9am Sunday 10th September 2023

Studio 2, Crown Perth

Great Eastern Hwy, Burswood

Your delegate nomination form is at the end of this Newsletter

Call for AGM Agenda Items

Agenda items should be submitted by 9:00 am Tuesday 1st August 2023
to Allen Gale sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au

Why is there a Volunteer Association for SES in WA?

To represent the views and interests of SES Volunteers in WA to all levels of Government, DFES, non-government and other agencies on matters affecting SES volunteers and how they respond to their communities.

Who manages the SESVA?

SES volunteers who are the elected committee members, as the Management Committee of the Association, have the power to manage the affairs of the Association, with the exception of the day-to-day matters which are managed by the Executive Council.

Management Committee — positions becoming vacant at the upcoming AGM **Committee member**

Each DFES Region has an elected SESVA representative which is part of the SESVA Committee. The representative's role is to be the local person to work on any matters for the SES Units and to assist where issues have not been resolved by the Regional Office or DFES.

President

The official spokesperson on all Association matters and Chairperson at all committee meetings and general meetings, also ensures that those meeting minutes are reviewed and correct.

Vice President South

In the absence of the President, acts as the Chairperson at any meeting that the President is absent from and carries out other duties, including support of the elected regional SESVA representatives.



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SESVA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ELECTIONS 2023 NOMINATIONS CLOSE—THURSDAY 13th JULY 2023

All Units are invited to nominate SES members for election as President and Vice President South and Units in the relevant regions are invited to nominate SES members for the positions in that region. The nomination form and nomination information can be found on the SESVA website via the link below:

[SESVA Elections 2023 – SES Volunteers Association of WA \(ses-wa.asn.au\)](https://ses-wa.asn.au/SESVA-Elections-2023)

The SESVA Management Committee is a deliberative body. The general management of the affairs of the Association is vested in the Management Committee.

The principal task of the SESVA Management Committee is to do all things necessary to support and represent the interests of West Australian SES Volunteers.

Management Committee members are elected for a two year term in alternate years.

SESVA Management Committee members have the opportunity to make a positive impact on the development and growth of the SES community. They are also afforded the opportunity to develop themselves both professionally and personally while gaining valuable insights and unique experiences through their service to SES volunteers.

If you have not previously held a position on a management committee, we believe you will find the experience rewarding, and maybe at times challenging. Naturally, your personal satisfaction will be commensurate with the energy you commit.

Sarah says “Nominate for the North East region for a rewarding experience.”

Belmont SES Volunteer, Sarah Hamilton, enjoyed working closely with local Volunteers of the SES Units in the North Coastal region. *“Being a SESVA representative has been a very rewarding experience,”* relates Sarah.

“I have met so many people with amazing skills and stories, and I have had the privilege to get to know them, their teams and their needs.”

“Representing our volunteers and serving them through the VA has given me a deeper understanding of what SES does and about the range of talent, skills, creativity and abilities we have in our state.”

Sarah can no longer continue in the role as she needs to dedicate her time to furthering her studies.



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SARGE SERVES WITH THE SES FOR 35 YEARS

Sergio Bottacin, known to all as Sarge, was presented with his 2nd Clasp to the National Medal for his service to the SES by Assistant Commissioner—Country, Gary Gifford on 12 July in Northam.

Sarge had been a member of the Northam District SES since 1987 and more recently a member in Merredin. During his time in the SES, Sarge was a Team Leader, Trainer, and Local Manager.

Sarge was passionate about imparting his knowledge to other SES Volunteers and making the community more prepared. He attended many incidents including the floods of Moora in 1999 after ex Tropical Cyclone Elaine dropped flooding rain in the Moore River catchment, in 2017 during the York/Northam Storms, more Flooding in Nungarin and Northam and a major tornado in Kellerberrin. Sarge also assisted in many major metro storms over more than 35 years.

In 2002 Sarge was awarded the National Medal with his first clasp being presented in 2014. In 2009 Sarge was awarded the Peter Keillor Award by his peers; the highest honour to be bestowed by the SES in WA.

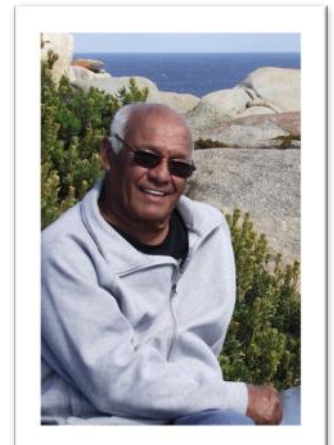
Sarge was active with the SESVA from December 2017 when he was appointed as a sub-committee member. He was appointed as the Goldfields-Midlands Management Committee member in November 2019, serving in the role until his resignation in January 2023. Sarge brought with him extensive training knowledge and a relentless commitment to improving exercise management, along with his desire to capture the history of the SES and the Civil Defence organisation in WA, including building up a collection of information, images and equipment that could be accessed by volunteers and the public in the years ahead.



VALE GORDON THORTON GOSNELLS SES

On 22ND June 2023 Gordon Thornton passed away after a short time in hospital. Gordon was a member of the Gosnells unit for over 20 years and awarded a Life Membership for his work and efforts promoting a healthy SES unit.

Gordon was always the joker making everyone laugh. If you knew him was to like him.



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Kalgoorlie–Boulder Unit Welcomes its new Local Manager

After 12 years at the helm
Kalgoorlie-Boulder Local
Manager, Felix van Gelderen
has stepped down from his
position as Local Manager.

Anjuli Til has been a member of the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Unit for five years and served in the position of Deputy Local Manager for the past 18 months.

Anjuli looks forward to taking up the reigns. She is excited by her new role and the challenges and rewards it offers.

Unit Members paid tribute to Felix Van Gelderen, thanking him for the wealth of knowledge and experience he shared with them over the past 12 years.

“We wish Anjuli the very best as she guides our Members in the future,” said a Unit spokesperson.

Felix remains a member of the Unit, taking on the role of Training Manager.



L-R: Ros Cleverly, Anjuli Til,
& Felix Van Gelderen



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COMING SOON

**UNITS WILL BE ABLE TO BORROW THESE ITEMS FOR FREE
FOR FUTURE PROMOTIONAL/PUBLIC RELATIONS EVENT**

For more information contact Bella

sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au

WAFES CONFERENCE 2023

2023 WAFES CONFERENCE & AWARDS REGISTRATIONS CLOSE SOON

There's just over two months to go before the 2023 WAFES Conference and Awards on Friday September 8th and Saturday September 9th.

BGU Endorsement by 11 July

- ▶ Unit leaders have received an email asking them to endorse two volunteers to attend the conference by Tuesday 11th July.

Expression of Interest list by 14 July

- ▶ Volunteers can join an Expression of Interest list which will be used to allocate any remaining places for the conference and/or awards gala dinner. The Expression of Interest list is open for self-nomination until Friday 14 July.

If you secure a place to attend the Conference....but can no longer attend!

A Volunteer who accepts a place to attend the conference must ensure that they let DFES know if they are unable to attend....so somebody else gets a chance to attend in their place. It is important that they read the [2023 WAFES Conference terms and conditions](#) and are aware of their obligations and cancellation and non-attendance conditions.

For more information on registrations and to keep up to date with the latest news visit the WAFES Conference [website](#)



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2022-2023 MAJOR SES DEPLOYMENTS DEBRIEF

The SES Volunteers Association has prepared a report on its debrief of units on the 2022-23 Major SES Deployments.

Many hours on consultations have been committed to identify learnings provided by the WA SES Volunteers that they believe may improve the volunteering experience of SES volunteers when deploying to future natural hazards incidents, both intrastate and interstate.

Recently the ABC's *The Drum* posted a report on the state of Victoria's SES. You can see the report at

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-06-14/no-faith-in-senior-management-vic-ses-volunteers-say/102475280>

or on YouTube at https://youtu.be/H4AA7ho1S_U.

The ABC's report and the recent SES Volunteers Association of WA report both demonstrate the difficulties facing emergency services volunteering, including:

- ▶ Increasing administrative burden;
- ▶ Compliance focus rather than operational efficiency and effectiveness;
- ▶ Ineffective or no dispute resolution;
- ▶ Training issues;
- ▶ Inadequate facilities;
- ▶ Volunteers treated as unpaid staff; and
- ▶ Poor communication between volunteers and staff.

Unit leaders and leadership teams are not alone with experiencing difficulties. Complaints to the SESVA of WA are often repeated elsewhere. The Volunteers Association of WA works hard to advocate on their behalf. That advocacy also depends on units stepping up and taking an active interest in their Association.

You can find the Deployment Debrief report on the SESVA website via the following link:

<https://ses-wa.asn.au/2023/06/23/23-06-2023-sesva-2022-23-major-ses-deployments-debrief/>



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Quiet Achievers of the SES

There are various opportunities for volunteers to be recognised, such as through the WA Volunteer Service Awards, but there are many who work quietly behind the scenes: an enduring and endearing stalwart of their Unit.

While Lyn Merredith was recently awarded City of Rockingham Senior Volunteer of the Year, Lyn has quietly offered her service to the Rockingham Kwinana SES for the past 25 years.

Lyn is currently the Deputy Local Manager and has held a number of other leadership positions over the years including Operations Section Leader.

Local Manager, David Catchlove, describes Lyn as, 'a very well respected and loved member of the unit and is fondly known as "Nanny Lyn" as she is always there to lend an ear and is always willing to go the extra mile when someone needs a shoulder to cry on. Lyn has been a fantastic asset to the Unit's management team and is dedicated to her role.'

Over the past few years Lyn has had trouble with her eyes due to having cataracts, but this has not stopped her from performing her duties and it has not stopped her from fulfilling the role as Acting Local Manager when David was unable to attend due to health issues.

'Lyn is always the first to put up her hand to assist with our Community Engagement activities and fundraising events, no matter how big or small,' says Dave.

During the response to ex TC Seroja in 2021 Lyn took the Unit's duty phone for six weeks to make sure that all the members deploying were looked after in a consistent manner and that everyone was provided with transport to and from the airport. During this time Lyn made herself available 24/7.

'It was a great honour to see Lyn recognised as the City of Rockingham Senior Volunteer of the Year 2023.'

**If you know and would like to honour an SES
Volunteer 'Quiet Achiever', please drop us a line, telling us about how
they have supported their Unit.
sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au**



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Les & Simon join the VA team

Les Hayter **ESM** will take on the role of SESVA Management Committee Member for Goldfields Midlands region, effective as of 8 June until the SESVA AGM.



Les is an active SES member and current Training Manager for the Margaret River SES Unit. He is also undertaking support to a number of active TRK projects, namely the General Rescue Intermediate/Advanced training and the Training Manager TRK, so he is able to get good insight into what is happening with SES training and development.

Les is confident that his 13 years on staff in SES training roles with FESA/DFES and also his time as an active SES volunteer/trainer and leader in a number of SES Unit (Swan, Karratha and Margaret River) will be of considerable benefit to a core of dedicated volunteer members within the 12 regions across WA.

Les is well known to SES members having had extensive training involvement and exposure particularly with SES members who have been around for some time. Les is looking forward to renewing connections with SES members in his role and hopeful of their support for his efforts.

Simon Robinson was appointed SESVA Management Committee Member for North Coastal region at the June 2023 Management Committee meeting. His appointment is effective from 8 June until the SESVA AGM.



Simon arrived in Australia in 2009 after spending a few years working in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) sector. He studied for the Training and Assessing qualification and worked for the Department of Justice in the Kimberley. Simon joined the Derby SES unit in 2017 and after returning to Perth Simon joined the newly formed Two Rocks Unit as Communications and Fundraising Officer, before moving to the Pilbara where he joined the Karratha SES.

While in the Pilbara region he helped kick start the Roebourne Districts SES Unit out of its dormancy where he helped train up new members, ran the communications, media, training and asset management whilst permanent volunteers were brought on board.

Simon returned to the Two Rocks Unit whilst working as an emergency response trainer and assessor specialising in fire, search, rescue, breathing apparatus, heights, confined spaces, ropes and first aid. He is based in Perth but frequently travels to Rio Tinto sites to train their Emergency Service Officers.

Simon is keen to share what the SES Volunteers Association is all about and how it can help individuals at a unit level and why the SESVA is so important for getting volunteers seen and heard at high level meetings across the state with various stakeholders.

**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR LES HAYTER AND SIMON ROBINSON CAN BE FOUND
ON THE SESVA WEBSITE UNDER COMMITTEE MEMBERS.**

<https://ses-wa.asn.au/sesva/sesva-committee-members/>



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AUSTRALIA'S INVISIBLE WORKFORCE: The Crucial Role of Volunteers in Supporting our Nation

Volunteers are an integral part of Australian society, and it is estimated that over five million people volunteer through an organisation annually, while an additional 6.5 million provide informal volunteering support within their community.

A new report from Volunteering Australia featuring the latest volunteering data reveals key insights into the motivations and types of volunteering undertaken in Australia.

The data also reveals that for almost three-quarters (72%) of volunteers, personal satisfaction, and the desire to do something worthwhile are primary motivations. Helping others and the community is also a significant motivator, with 61% of volunteers indicating this as a driving factor.

This year's National Volunteer Week theme, 'The Change Makers' highlighted the powerful impact volunteers across all sectors make, supporting individuals, communities and the nation. The week long event recognised the millions of volunteers across Australia giving their time and energy to make change in our communities while encouraging others to consider putting their hand up.

WA Volunteer Service Awards

Western Australian Volunteers who have volunteered for over 25 years can be nominated in one of three categories to receive a commemorative pin and a personalised certificate in recognition of their service in one of these three categories:

- ▶ **25 YEAR AWARD** 25-49 years of volunteer service
- ▶ **50 YEAR AWARD** 50-59 years of volunteer service
- ▶ **LIFETIME OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE** 60 years or more of volunteer service

The Department of Communities helps to acknowledge the significant efforts of Western Australia's Volunteers

More information about WA Volunteer Service Awards and eligibility criteria is available by phoning Department of communities on 1800 176 888 or email: volunteering@communities.wa.gov.au

In 2023, 155 individuals were recognised through the Volunteer Service Awards Program for their longstanding service to Western Australian



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VOLUNTEER SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2023—2026

Working together, we can ensure the continuity of volunteer emergency services in local communities by:

- ▶ Addressing barriers to recruitment and retention
- ▶ Increasing access to relevant training for volunteers.
- ▶ Fostering connections with local governments.
- ▶ Promoting effective relationships between volunteers, staff and stakeholders.

There will be a news item in the July Volunteer Update which will be mailed to all volunteers on Friday 7th July.

The news item will seek to encourage volunteers to post their comments on a Discussion Board on the Volunteer Hub, or contact Strategic Volunteers & Youth Programs Branch with feedback.

Volunteers will be invited to join in the conversation on the Discussion Board—sharing what they are doing or would like to do that supports Volunteer Sustainability in their community.

This Strategy is yours help build for the future of volunteering

SES Volunteers will find more information in the 7 July Volunteer Update or via the Volunteer Hub by clicking here:

[Volunteer Sustainability Strategy | DFES Department of Fire and Emergency Services](#)

WE ALL HAVE A PART TO PLAY :

Volunteer Sustainability Strategy 2023-2026 A Vital Future

About the Strategy

The overarching goal of the Strategy is to ensure systems, processes and support are in place to continue to deliver volunteer services into the future by:

- supporting volunteers at a local level, equipping volunteer leaders to support the Strategy, its priorities and actions, and
- connecting volunteers with DFES to improve cohesion between volunteer teams and paid employees.

To achieve this the Strategy has been developed with four key focus areas and associated priorities:

1. CAPACITY

Ensuring volunteers are available to the best address local community needs.

Priorities

- 1.1 Addressing barriers to recruitment and retention and supporting proactive, diverse and inclusive recruitment and retention of new volunteers, to successfully reflect the demographic makeup of local communities.
- 1.2 Increasing youth engagement in emergency services and promoting the involvement of engaged youth to adult volunteering.
- 1.3 Fostering connection and positive working relationships with local governments to support volunteer teams and positive local outcomes.

2. SKILLS

Ensuring volunteers, volunteer leaders and staff have the skills and knowledge to provide services to the community and teams they lead.

Priorities

- 2.1 Increasing access to relevant training for volunteers.
- 2.2 Supporting DFES regional teams and volunteer leaders to identify approaches and provide that respond to local need.
- 2.3 Developing leadership and management capability for regional staff and volunteer leaders.
- 2.4 Ensuring all available resources, including asset provision, training and people, are leveraged by staff and volunteers to support service delivery to the community.

3. RELATIONSHIPS

Recognising, harnessing and celebrating the best of volunteers by DFES.

Priorities

- 3.1 Engaging volunteers effectively and meaningfully in decisions that impact them.
- 3.2 Ensuring volunteers feel valued and recognised, for their contribution to the safety of the State.
- 3.3 Enabling effective, open and responsive relationships between volunteers, staff and stakeholders.

4. AN ENABLED STRATEGY

Applying innovative approaches to engagement, development and utilisation of systems to address current and future challenges.

Priorities

- 4.1 Promoting the building of relationships between volunteers and regional teams based on knowledge and trust to provide effective delivery of emergency services.
- 4.2 Developing systems and reporting to identify and address current and future volunteer engagement challenges.
- 4.3 Leveraging technology and improving processes to support compliance and provide streamlined access to critical information for prospective, new and existing volunteers.

Emergency Services Volunteers: A Snapshot

Approximately 26,606 volunteers located in 12 regions provide emergency assistance and support to the people of Western Australia. Working before, during and after emergencies to prevent, prepare, respond and recover in their communities, they include:

- Bush Fire Service: 19,920
- Marine Rescue WA: 1,550
- State Emergency Service: 1,889
- Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services: 1,093
- Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service: 2,154
- Young People in Emergency Services: 3,074

26,606 Volunteers

49 is the average age of an emergency services volunteer: 76% men 24% women

Volunteer teams are based in both metropolitan Perth and regional Western Australia.

Young people are encouraged to get involved with Youth in Emergency Services programs throughout Western Australia.

Volunteer emergency services work with agency partners, including local governments that support Bush Fire Brigades.

Across Australia

Across Australia, about one third of people aged 15 years and over volunteer through an organisation each year.

- Changing expectations and the use of personal time has impacted people's availability to volunteer - 45% of women and 35% of men report feeling rushed for time.

The Volunteer Experience

- Volunteer teams need organisational flexibility and ongoing support to adapt to local needs. Driving the future of volunteering activities.
- Time and best fit training is essential to support the volunteer workforce.
- Effective leadership is vital for volunteer teams, with management capability grounded in support and trust.

Opportunities for DFES and Volunteer Teams

- Increasing collaboration between staff, partners and volunteer teams and the building of knowledge and skills to support good working relationships.
- Focusing on the provision of skilled, flexible and adaptive support, for volunteer teams, to respond to risks faced by individual communities.
- The recognition of volunteers' contribution to Western Australia's overall emergency management efforts, supported by DFES Culture Dimensions.



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Preparations for the MidWest-Gascoyne Regional Exercise are well under way

Are you up for the Challenge? Do you want to put your skills to the test?

If so, the MidWest-Gascoyne Regional Exercise weekend is on again. The scenarios are fully realistic which will challenge you and expose you to the full gambit of SES operations and leave you with a feeling of “this is what it is all about.”

The MWG exercise will be conducted in the area around the Wagoie campsite facility approximately 20 kilometres south of Kalbarri.

- Arrive Friday for a kick off Saturday morning
- Round Robin training Saturday morning
- Scenarios Saturday afternoon
- Fellowship Saturday night around a fire
- Scenarios Sunday morning.
- If you like, stay Sunday afternoon and have a look around and leave Monday morning.

Wagoie is a popular reef fishing spot, which offers chalet style accommodation as well as caravan bays. We have booked the whole camp. There are 8 chalets which you can swag in or you can utilise the caravan park section.

The “deal:

Self cater for all meals except Saturday night—big fire, stew and damper.....it doesn't get any better!

What to bring:

Own sleeping gear, own food, basic SES equipment (GPS, Compasses and of course full PPE)

Interested? Let Steve at Kalbarri know ASAP by email sesva.midwestgascoyne@ses-wa.asn.au



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Design an SES Mascot!

Many Units indicated they would welcome having access to an SES Mascot to use for their Unit's promotional events .

You're invited to help design the best Mascot!

Submit your Mascot ideas, including your

preferred animal

Colour schemes

clothing designs

Sketches

...AND YOUR NAME :-))

We'd love to see your design drawings - these can be simple rough sketches or fully rendered graphic designs.

The winning design will receive an **SESVA Merchandise Package.**

Send your design ideas to Bella at sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au



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Opportunities to expand your Volunteering experiences start here.....



WOMEN &
LEADERSHIP
& LEADERSHIP
AUSTRALIA

Women & Leadership Australia is currently offering professional development scholarships for women across all areas of the Police, Defence and Emergency Services Sector. SES Volunteers are encouraged to explore this opportunity.

Women & Leadership Australia (WLA) supports women at all levels across all sectors and industries. They offer career-defining leadership programs that bring together a focus on applied learning with the latest in leadership theory and practice. WLA believe that advancing gender equity, especially in leadership, is central to creating a more fair and inclusive society.

Through its **Industry Partnership Framework**, WLA work with hundreds of Australian associations and professional bodies to increase awareness and action around gender equity. With your support, WLA can continue to create meaningful opportunities for women leaders across the country.

Scholarships of \$1000-\$5000 per person are available for women in the Police, Defence and Emergency Services Sector.

To encourage more women to increase their impact at work and step into leadership roles across the Police, Defence and Emergency Services Sector, WLA is offering scholarships for four leadership development courses.

Application closing date has been extended.

Apply by 31 July 2023, find out more by clicking here: www.wla.edu.au/industry/pdes

"This course has provided me with the opportunity to build a comprehensive leadership toolkit... I highly recommend this course and look forward to applying my learnings to real world situations"

KIM, MANAGING DIRECTOR



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To make sure you receive the SESVA Newsletter monthly, subscribe via the link: <https://ses-wa.asn.au/subscribe-to-newsletter/>

Opportunities to expand your Volunteering experiences continues

Thank a Volunteer Day grants are now open

Grants of up to \$1,000 are available for community organisations to host events or activities between 2 – 8 December 2023 to celebrate volunteers for International Volunteer Day (5 December 2023).

The grant supports communities to celebrate Thank a Volunteer Day as a whole of community event to acknowledge & celebrate the role of volunteers in the community.

To ensure a balance of events/activities across the State, only one Thank a Volunteer Day Grant will be awarded per community (defined as a Local Government Authority area). Consideration will be given to supporting more than one event in a Local Government Authority area in those regional areas where distances between communities are deemed large.

How to apply

[Visit the website](#) and read the terms and conditions of applying.

Amount: Grants up to \$1000

Open date: Friday 16 June 2023

Close date: Thursday 27 July 2023 at 1430 hours

Contact phone: 0435 046 351

Contact email: grants@communities.wa.gov.au



PO Box 3218 (91 Leake St)
Belmont WA 6104
sesva_office@ses-wa.asn.au
www.ses-wa.asn.au



SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc)

One Association - Many Values

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An important message for Unit leaders

This message is for Unit managers so they are aware that when their Unit is involved in a Potentially Traumatic Event (not all PTE's are reported as Critical Incidents through the DFES notification procedures) that a Critical Incident Stress (CIS) report needs to be activated so your Wellness Team can tailor a personalised response to the Unit and the responding teams.

From the DFES Wellness Branch.....

"You and your teams are important and appreciated stakeholders of Wellness Branch. Our role is to serve you well. As we periodically do, Wellness wishes to remind all Units to activate a Critical Incident Stress (CIS) report, when deemed warranted on account of incidents attended.

*A CIS report is encouraged whenever anyone, in the process of responding to an incident, is exposed to a potentially traumatic event (PTE). It is important to bear in mind that not all PTE exposures are confined to 'extreme' type incidents, and that something relatively innocuous in nature can 'trigger' any of us. Apart from any assistance that may be provided by the Wellness Team in response to a CIS report being activated, a KEY benefit to Units/members is that a record of having attended the incident is recorded on each individual's personal running sheet, providing a permanent and accurate history of the PTE's they have been exposed to throughout their career. **If in doubt – err on the side of safety and activate a CIS.***

CIS reports are our trigger to initiate a Wellness response. Without the completion of a CIS report there is a high possibility that a Unit having attended a critical incident will fail to come to the attention of the Wellness Branch and consequently the CIS process may fail to initiate. This could involve many unintended consequences for the Units themselves, the individuals, their co-workers, family members, etc. The potential for this scenario to devolve into a potentially life-threatening situation is something we must remain cognisant of and work at all costs to avoid."

Please direct any questions or queries to wellness@dfes.wa.gov.au



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HEALTH & SAFETY TIPS

Share your Safety TIPS for inclusion in the Newsletter; you'll be helping to keep everyone safe!

Email Bella sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au

COUNSELLING

Volunteers registered with DFES have **free** access to the Psychological Support Service. This service can be accessed for personal, work or volunteering related issues and is designed to provide short-term psychological assistance for those in need.

What is psychological support?

Psychological support refers to the support given by a registered psychologist to help meet the mental, emotional, and social needs of the client.

The Psychological Support Service was previously known as the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and more commonly amongst volunteers as counselling.

A psychologist is a professional trained in the science of how people think, feel, behave and learn. Psychologists are devoted to helping people find solutions to real life problems such as improving mental health and wellbeing, learning, performance, relationships and overall quality of life.

How to make an appointment

1. Call or book online with your chosen provider. More information, including locations, is on the Volunteer Hub.
2. Advise that you are an emergency services volunteer registered with DFES or an immediate family member of a volunteer registered with DFES.
3. Request an appointment on a day, time and mode (face to face/phone/video call).
4. Advise if you have preferences for the psychologist to be of a preferred gender, older or younger, or skilled in a certain area.

Why would I access the Psychological Support Service?

People access psychological support to talk about personal, emotional, or mental health issues that are impacting them. Some common reasons that people use this service include, but are not limited to:

- Addiction
- Anger management
- Anxiety and worry
- Conflict at home, work or volunteering
- Communication and interpersonal skill building
- Decision making
- Depression and low mood
- Family problems
- Grief and loss
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) / Post-Traumatic Stress Injury (PTSI)
- Relationship issues
- Resiliency skill building
- Self-care strategies
- Sleep difficulties
- Stress
- Stress following a critical incident
- Suicide and suicidal thoughts
- Transition through life stages and/or changes
- Wellbeing

More information on the Psychological Support Service can be found on the dedicated Volunteer Hub Page. [VOLUNTEER: Counselling \(dfes.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/volunteer/counselling) or send an email to the Wellness Team wellness@dfes.wa.gov.au



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SES VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION of WA (Inc) MEMBER DELEGATE FORM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 09:00am Studio 2, Crown Burswood SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2023

Please complete Unit email address details to ensure your Unit can be contacted.

UNIT NAME	
SES REGION	
UNIT POSTAL ADDRESS	
UNIT EMAIL ADDRESS	
NAME OF MEMBER DELEGATE	
POSTAL ADDRESS OF MEMBER DELEGATE	
PHONE	MOBILE
EMAIL ADDRESS	
SIGNATURE	DATE
UNIT AUTHORISING OFFICER	
NAME	
POSITION	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
SIGNATURE	DATE

Do you wish to receive the TEAMS Meeting Link to attend the AGM: YES / NO

if YES, please advise Email address: _____

Completed forms must be returned by close of business on 9th September 2023

Please return via email, marked; **Attention SESVA Returning Officer**

Email: sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au

Returning forms to any other email address may result in the form not being received by the Returning Officer in time.

