

Bravery Awards Structure

From 2021, the Royal Life Saving WA Bravery Awards will be awarded in two categories. The overall levels, general criteria and medals will be retained, with specific considerations made depending on the individual nominees and setting.

- **Community** – Awarded to members of the general public (divided into Junior and Adult/General Community)
- **Professional** – Awarded to people who respond to incidents during their work for which they are trained but are not part of their core day-to-day duties.

The Committee will determine the most appropriate category for each nominee and nominators will not be required to indicate on the nomination form which award category they are nominating for. One nomination form can be completed for multiple nominees that may fall into different categories (e.g. an adult and child were both involved in a scenario or a patron participated in an aquatic centre rescue).

Community

Any member of the general public can be nominated for a community award. This includes all community members and may also include responses from professionals acting in an 'off duty' situation (e.g. police officers, health professionals, lifeguards etc.).

General Community Bravery Award

The structure of the Royal Life Saving Bravery Awards is such that there are six tiered awards to represent the different actions taken, as well as to place them in an order which recognises the degree of difficulty and execution of the rescue. They are listed below in hierarchical order and contain a brief explanation about the criteria for which they may be awarded.

Distinction Bravery Award

For demonstrating acts of conspicuous courage in circumstances of extreme peril with disregard for their own personal safety. In addition the candidate must have demonstrated exceptional judgement, an extremely advanced level of skill and immense speed in the execution of the action taken. The award consists of a framed certificate and a printed plaque.

Award of Merit

For exceptional rescue/resuscitation events, where the candidate has shown exceptional judgement utilising an advanced level of skill. In addition, the recipient must have demonstrated immense speed in the execution of the action taken. The award consists of a framed certificate and a printed plaque.

Gold Cross

For outstanding rescue/resuscitation events where the degree of difficulty and/or the candidate's age/skill level is such that the committee recommends one of the highest awards. The award consists of a framed certificate and a gold-plated cross.

Examples:

- Complex water rescue (open water, difficult conditions)
- Provision of a high level of CPR and/or first aid, particularly in challenging conditions
- Situations that may put the rescuer in some danger

Gold Medallion

For rescue/resuscitation events where the degree of difficulty is reasonable and/or outside normally expected conditions. The award consists of a framed certificate and a gold-plated medallion.

Examples:

- Performance of CPR
- More complex water rescue and/or one involving the provision of first aid/CPR

Gold Star

For simple and normally expected rescue and/or resuscitation events. The award consists of a framed certificate and a gold-plated star.

Examples:

- Provision of first aid
- Basic water rescue

Bravery Commendation

In recognition of the provision of basic assistance in the event of an emergency or an attempt at a rescue/resuscitation. The award consists of a framed certificate.

Junior Community Bravery Award

A Junior Bravery Award will be awarded to children or young people who perform acts which are considered noteworthy due to their age but would not meet the criteria for the standard Community Bravery Award. No age limit is specified for eligibility for a Junior Bravery Award and it will be at the discretion of the Committee to determine the most appropriate level. Young people will still be eligible for a Community Bravery Award if the actions performed would be considered 'brave' regardless of the age of the person.

Junior Gold Medallion

For rescue/resuscitation events where the degree of difficulty is reasonable and/or outside normally expected conditions. The award consists of a framed certificate and a gold-plated medallion.

Examples:

- Higher-level water rescue (e.g. open water)
- Provision of first aid and/or CPR
- Incidents that put the rescuer in some danger

Junior Gold Star

For simple and normally expected rescue and/or resuscitation events. The award consists of a framed certificate and a gold-plated star.

Examples:

- More involved water rescue (e.g. entering pool or water body to actively remove another person from the water)
- Taking initiative in an emergency situation (e.g. calling 000 when parent is unconscious, taking care of siblings etc.)
- Assisting an adult with first aid or providing a basic first aid response

Junior Commendation

In recognition of the provision of basic assistance in the event of an emergency or an attempt at a rescue/resuscitation. The award consists of a framed certificate.

Examples:

- Simple and straightforward water rescue (e.g. pulling younger sibling out of pool, then handing over to adults)
- Called 000 under the direction of adults

Professional

The professional awards are designed to recognise who respond in incidents for which they are trained but are not part of their core day-to-day duties. This will most commonly include aquatic centre staff and police officers who perform a rescue or provide first aid.

Aquatic centres may choose to nominate only those who actively participated in a rescue/resuscitation or to also include supporting staff as part of a group award.

Professional Gold Cross

For professionals who have performed outstanding rescue/resuscitation events where the degree of difficulty and/or the candidate's age/skill level is such that the committee recommends one of the highest awards. The award consists of a framed certificate and a gold-plated cross.

Examples:

- Complex water rescue (open water, difficult conditions)
- Provision of a high level of CPR and/or first aid, particularly in challenging conditions
- Situations that may put the rescuer in some danger

Professional Gold Medallion

For professionals who have responded in an incident where the degree of difficulty is reasonable and/or outside normally expected conditions. The award consists of a framed certificate and a gold-plated medallion.

Examples:

- Complex in-water rescue (e.g. natural waterway)
- Performing CPR or high-level first aid in complicated conditions

Professional Gold Star

For professionals who have actively participated in a straightforward emergency response during their work. The award consists of a framed certificate and a gold-plated star.

Examples:

- Performing a water rescue
- Performing CPR or providing first aid

Professional Bravery Commendation

For individual professionals who have provided a low-level emergency response. This should particularly be reserved for junior aquatic staff and these awards would not be presented at the main Bravery Award ceremony. The award consists of a framed certificate.

Example:

- Performing a basic water rescue (e.g. distressed child)

Aquatic Centre Group Commendation

Staff members who were involved in an emergency response but did not directly assist the patron are eligible for nomination for the group award. This award aims to recognise that an effective emergency response relies on the contribution of many members of staff and reflects their skills and training. While these recipients will not receive an individual award, they will be named on the certificate.

Examples:

- Managing pool evacuation
 - Supporting patrons
 - Liaising with emergency services
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