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MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

E-Learning a Lifesaver

Surf Life Saving WA's 'E-Learning for the Front Line Lifesaver' won the Community Innovation Award at the ICCWA Community Safety Awards for its contribution to coastal safety.

The program is centred around a virtual beach and life saving clubrooms which are staffed by typical volunteer-based characters performing the key tasks associated with the operation of a Surf Life Saving Club. The aim of the course is to provide participants with the skills and knowledge of basic patrolling and surf awareness in order to be able to participate in lifesaving operations for the benefit of the greater community.

John King, Surf Life Saving WA (SLSWA) Member Education and Training Coordinator said that "the award means a lot to SLSWA as it recognises the programs' innovative approach to education. The award also recognises the effort that SLSWA has made over the past four years to put the program together."

As a result of the initiative Surf Life Saving WA (SLSWA) now provides the Surf Rescue Certificate, Bronze Medallion Award, and the Silver Medallion Basic Beach Management Award through the E-learning pathway. SLSWA currently has 4,646 volunteers.

Deborah Costello, CEO of ICCWA said, "This program has been instrumental in training and educating front-line volunteer surf lifesavers and ultimately ensured that West Australians will be kept safe at the beach."

The awards were presented by the Hon Rob Johnson MLA Minister for Police; Emergency Services and Road Safety and were held on Thursday 4th August at The Boulevard Centre, Floreat.

The ICCWA Community Innovation Award recognises innovative action by individuals or organisations to promote safety in their local communities. The ICCWA Community Safety Awards are held annually and raise awareness about community safety and injury prevention and recognise organisations taking extraordinary steps to make their community safer.

For further information contact ICCWA on 9420 7212 or visit www.iccwa.org.au.

Ends.

(Media contact: Deborah Costello - CEO, ICCWA (08) 9420 7212/0408 900 448 or email dcostello@iccwa.org.au.)

Photo available from ICCWA: Paul Andrew (CEO of Surf Life Saving WA) receiving award from Hon Rob Johnson MLA.