**Editor’s note:** *Pictures from the Surfing with the Mob Program can be accessed here:* [*https://officeofsport.intelligencebank.com/customshare/index/y0OrN*](https://officeofsport.intelligencebank.com/customshare/index/y0OrN)

1 October 2023

**South East mob take first steps to a career in surfing**

First Nations surfers from the South East took the first steps to becoming accredited surf coaches at Pambula Beach today.

In partnership with the NSW Office of Sport and Surfing with the Mob, Surfing NSW delivered the training to 10 local First Nations surfers, providing them with the skills and knowledge to become accredited surf coaches.

Participants included a mix of adults and students, with the adults completing the Foundation Surf Coaching Course while the students undertook the Surf Coach Essentials Course.

As part of the Program all participants completed a fitness test comprising a run, swim, run, paddle and run as well as a 200m swim that they were required to finish in less than five minutes.

The Program also included participants learning first aid and surf rescue training.

To support Surfing with the Mob to deliver future programs to First Nations surfers in the region, the Office of Sport provided a number of new surfboards, wetsuits and a Surfing with the Mob branded trailer.

**Minister for Sport Steve Kamper said:**

“There are some incredible career pathways available to young people through sport.

“Today’s program, delivered by Surfing NSW in partnership with Surfing with the Mob, provides First Nations surfers from the South East with a pathway to a career as an accredited surf coach.”

**Member for Bega Michael Holland said:**

“Surfing with the Mob does a fantastic job delivering programs that engage local First Nations youth.

“Today’s program not only gives them an understanding of the career pathways in the surf industry, but also a pathway to becoming a surf coach.”

**Surfing NSW Education and Programs Manager Adam Seminara said:**

“Surfing NSW is stoked to support the Surfing with the Mob program, empowering First Nations people with essential ocean awareness skills.

“By training participants in first aid and trauma response, we equip them with the confidence to save lives in emergencies, whether in the ocean or when dealing with traumatic injuries.

“Additionally, this course opens up opportunities for First Nations individuals to pursue careers as accredited surf coaches or lifeguards, creating pathways for personal and professional growth.”

**Bega Local Aboriginal Land Council Community Connector Robbie Townsend said:**

“With the recent acquisition of our own trailer, boards, and wetsuits, along with our trained Surf Life Saving personnel, we are significantly enhancing the program's sustainability.

“This not only strengthens our current efforts but also positions us for future growth.”

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