Seafood Directions – 2026 Bursary

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1. Purpose of the bursary

The Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA) will award two (2) bursaries to support leaders, innovators and contributors within Queensland's wild-caught commercial fishing sector to attend Seafood Directions 2026. The bursary aims to:

- Strengthen industry capability and leadership
- Support professional development and exposure to national best practice
- Encourage participation in sector-wide dialogue, innovation and policy discussions
- Build the capacity and understanding of advocates, operators and industry contributors

2. What the bursary covers

Each bursary provides:

- Full registration for Seafood Directions 2026
- Ticket to the National Seafood Industry Awards Dinner

Travel, accommodation, meals and incidental costs are not included and must be funded by the applicant.

3. Eligibility criteria

Applicants must:

- Be currently working in, or directly supporting, Queensland's wild-caught commercial fishing industry
- Demonstrate a commitment to industry development, stewardship, or leadership
- Be available to attend the full Seafood Directions 2026 program and awards dinner
- Be willing to share learnings with QSIA and industry peers following the event
- Allow QSIA may to use the applicants name, photograph and application/attendance information for social media and promotional purposes associated with the bursary.

It is not mandatory for an applicant to be a member of QSIA, however, members will have a preference when applications are similar.

4. Assessment criteria

A. Contribution to Queensland's Wild-Caught Sector

- Demonstrated involvement in commercial fishing, sector support, or industry advocacy
- Evidence of commitment to sustainable, responsible and future-focused industry practice

B. Capacity Building Impact

Applicants must outline how attending Seafood Directions 2026 will:

- Strengthen their professional capability
- Build skills, knowledge or networks that benefit the Queensland industry
- Support innovation, leadership, workforce development or sector resilience
- Enhance their ability to contribute to industry organisations, committees or initiatives

C. Future Benefit to Industry

- Clear plan for how insights will be shared with peers, businesses, or QSIA
- Potential to contribute to long-term industry capability and leadership

5. Application requirements

Applicants must submit:

1. Completed the attached application form
2. Statement of interest addressing background, reasons for attending, and capacity-building benefits
3. Optional: Letter of support

6. Key dates

Applications close: **5pm 15 June 2026** and are to be emailed to eo@qsia.com.au

Applicants notified by 5pm 19 June 2026.

7. Selection process

Applications will be reviewed by a QSIA assessment panel. Decisions are final.

8. Post-event requirements

Successful recipients agree to:

1. Provide a written reflection on key learnings
2. Participate in QSIA communications or member briefings
3. Support broader industry capability uplift through shared insights

9. About Seafood Directions 2026

A. What they say

Seafood Directions is the premier ideas, innovation and networking event for the Australian seafood industry. The national forum provides an opportunity to promote the seafood industry, discuss industry issues, workshop solutions, teach best practices, share knowledge, and plan for the future of the sector. At Seafood Directions 2026, we unite to shape the future of one of Australia's most vital and innovative food industries. From ocean to table, the conference will explore how we can respond to evolving consumer expectations, harness emerging technologies, build a resilient workforce, and safeguard long-term access to resources. This year's program is built around six key sub-themes: Seafood and its consumers; Technology and innovation; People and workforce; Nature and climate change resilience; Security, access and food; and Market access and trade. Together, we'll share insights, tackle challenges, and set a course for a sustainable and thriving Australian seafood sector for generations to come.

B. When and where

Seafood Directions is being held at the Sydney International Convention Centre in Darling Harbour from 28 to 30 July 2026.

Find out m0re at Seafood Directions | Conference