

Circular 079:06:10



To: Club Presidents
Club Captains
Lifeguards
LSOC State Officers

Club Secretaries
Chief Instructors
Regional Officers
District Officers

Cc:

From: Greg Scott, Manager – Lifesaving Operations

Date: 15 June 2010

Subject: **Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter – Volunteer Crew Positions**

Action: Expressions of interest close 5:00 pm on Friday, 30 July 2010

For additional details on this Circular please contact:
Greg Scott on 03 9676 6935 or email greg.scott@lifesavingvictoria.com.au
Circulars are available at www.lifesavingvictoria.com.au/circulars

The Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter conducts regular patrols and undertakes emergency response activities across Victoria. The service works closely with volunteer beach patrols, paid lifeguards, and offshore services, and is readily available to assist other emergency services and government agencies. The service also undertakes community education and promotional activities throughout the year.

We are currently seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified and proficient lifesavers to undertake training and operational duties as part of the helicopter crew. This is a demanding and challenging position.

As a helicopter crew member you will be expected to complete rostered volunteer helicopter patrols, attend training sessions and crew meetings and participate in other activities organised by the Service. Due to the significant time and cost involved in training crew, a minimum commitment of three (3) years is expected of an applicant, not withstanding exceptional circumstances. The Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter base is located at Moorabbin Airport, Melbourne.

In addition to any helicopter duties you will be expected to continue to have active involvement in your club and complete your club beach patrol commitments.

Candidates should be aware that only limited vacancies are available. ALL minimum crew applicant criteria and qualifications must be met prior to an expression of interest being submitted. It should be noted that the selection process is highly competitive and meeting minimum criteria in no way guarantees acceptance.

Minimum Crew Applicant Criteria

To be suitable to submit an application you must meet the following minimum criteria:

- Be a minimum 20 years of age at date of application
- Have a maximum body weight of 90kg
- Be a current financial and proficient member of a Life Saving Victoria affiliated Life Saving Club or Service
- Have completed a minimum of three (3) years active beach patrol
- Have excellent record of patrol attendance
- Have excellent teamwork skills
- Current Drivers Licence
- Current Working with Children Check
- Have the written endorsement of your Club
- Be proficient in the minimum awards as outlined below
- Attend and pass the helicopter crew fitness tests
- Be willing to undertake drug and alcohol testing at commencement of training and each rostered patrol



Minimum Qualifications

If you do not hold these qualifications you cannot apply for this position. All awards must be current. Your current details will be extracted from and confirmed by Surfguard.

- Bronze Medallion / Certificate II in Public Safety (Aquatic Rescue)
- Advanced Resuscitation Certificate and Defibrillation Certificate *or* Advanced Resuscitation Techniques
- Senior First Aid Certificate
- Spinal Management Certificate

Other awards additional to those specified above will be taken into account when selecting candidates. Demonstrated IRB experience will be particularly well regarded.

Helicopter Crew Fitness/Operational Test Requirements

The final fitness test criteria are continually being reassessed in light of the evolving nature of the service. The tests are additional to those normally associated with lifesaving activities. They have and will continue to be designed to ensure that all crew can demonstrate the physical endurance and strength required to safely and efficiently carry out Helicopter crew duties.

Full harness equipped swim sprints, patient drags, and treading water for extended periods whilst dressed, are typical of the tests performed.

At a minimum trainee crew applicants who meet the above award criteria will be required to complete the following to continue to the next stage:

- 400m swim within a time limit of no more than 8 minutes
- 1.6km run within a time limit of no more than 7 minutes
- Departure off 10m high diving platform – (simulated aircraft departure)
- 5 x wide grip chin ups
- Retrieve object from pool depth of 5m

Other Requirements

Crew applicants may be required to undertake one or a series of other assessments from time to time.

All applicants must be conscious of operational factors including that rostered duty is generally from 1000 – 1900 and that new trainee crew will be rostered for training/patrol on a Saturday or Sunday at minimum once in every three week period. Crew will also be rostered one day a week in the peak period between Boxing Day and Australia Day, and during this period midweek crew duties will be required.

Interview

An applicant may be required to attend a selection interview before a panel.

Applications

Applications must be submitted on the attached [Expression of Interest form](#).

Overview of Process

Applications Close	5:00 pm on Friday, 30 July 2010
Applicants that meet award minimum criteria and qualifications have briefing and undertake swim, run, high board test and dive test	Monday, 9 August 2010 (Tentatively 6:00 pm)
Interviews (if required)	Wednesday, 11 August 2010
Outcome of Applications Advised	Friday, 13 August 2010

Specific training details are still being finalised, but applicants can expect it will be conducted over evenings and weekends following announcement of training candidates on Friday, 13 August. Further details will be provided to applicants who meet minimums at the briefing on Monday, 9 August 2010.

As a guide, Basic Helicopter Safety and Helicopter Underwater Escape Training will be undertaken in September, with classroom based training commencing October and training in the aircraft in November.

Please note: not all applicants will be successful due to the limitations on numbers, and the selection panel's decision is final.

