

WESTPAC RESCUE HELICOPTER CREW - EO!

Audience: Lifesavers
Date: 23 January 2009
Distributed by email to: WA Clubs
Distributed by mail to: Nil
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Summary:

- Due to the success of the Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter, more positions have been created for successful candidates

Action:

- Expressions of Interest from members to be submitted on attached forms to SLSWA by noon Friday 13th February 2009

APPLICATION TO JOIN CREW OF THE WESTPAC LIFESAVER RESCUE HELICOPTER SERVICE CLOSES noon Friday 13th February 2009

The Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter Service was established in December 2008 and has become an additional stream of the SLSWA Support Operations Group. The helicopter service is primarily designed to conduct regular surveillance patrols and rescue missions in the Metropolitan area from Mandurah to Yanchep.

The Service works closely with the volunteer beach patrols of clubs and actively supports the SLSWA strategy of making Western Australian beaches safer and extending the reach of our surveillance capabilities beyond Club locations.. The Service also provides support to other volunteer emergency services and will work closely with government agencies such as the Police, Fire, Ambulance Services and AUSSAR.

We are currently seeking applications from suitably qualified and proficient Surf Life Savers 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 on weekends and public holidays, attend training sessions and crew meetings and participate in any other activities organised by the Service.

In addition to any helicopter duties you will be required to maintain an active interest in your club and complete all beach patrol commitments as required by your club.

All candidates should be aware that only limited vacancies are available. This is primarily due to the time and experience required for training and maintaining currency. It is currently anticipated that 4 new crew members will be required for the season 2009/2010.

Minimum Crew Applicant Criteria

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

- Be physically fit.
- Be of the age of at least 18 years.
- Be a financial and proficient member of an affiliated Surf Life Saving Club or the Australian Lifeguard Service.
- Have completed a minimum of 100hours active beach patrol (paid/voluntary) in the last 4 years.

- Have the written endorsement of your Club.
- Be proficient in the minimum awards as outlined below.
- Attend and pass the helicopter crew fitness tests.

Minimum SLSA Awards

If you do not hold these awards you cannot apply for this position. All awards must be current.

- Bronze Medallion
- Advanced Resuscitation Certificate
- Senior First Aid Certificate [SLSA or other].
- Spinal Management

Other awards additional to those specified above will be taken into account when selecting candidates. Applicants must either hold or be prepared to undertake the Defibrillator and Analgesic Gases Certificate.

Helicopter Crew Fitness/Operational Test Requirements

The final fitness test criteria are continually being reassessed in light of the expanded nature of the service. The tests are different from those normally associated with Surf 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 minimum 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 (preferably under 7 minutes).
- 1.6km run within a time limit of no more than 7 minutes
- Departure off 10m high diving platform

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 patrol days are Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

Those who meet the award requirements would be expected to attend a compulsory briefing session to gain an understanding of the process and requirements that take place. Attendance does not mean that the candidate will be selected to be a trainee.

Applications

Applications must be submitted on a Helicopter Services Application Form which can be obtained from www.mybeach.com.au website.

No late applications will be accepted.

Overview of Process

- Applications received
- Applicants that meet award criteria invited to complete swim, run and high board test.
- Applicants that pass this stage invited to interview (if required).
- Successful applicants from interview advised and invited to participate in formal crew training activity.

**Completed and suitably endorsed applications should be returned by noon Friday
13th February 2009**



PAUL ANDREW

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER