

**To:** Presidents Captains  
Secretaries

**From:** Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter Service

**Date:** 12 June 2024

## Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter Service EOI & Recruitment Advice

**As part of LSV's ongoing commitment to the development of the Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter Service (WLRHS), we invite expressions of interest from suitably qualified and proficient candidate with lifesaving experience.**

As a helicopter crew member, you will be expected to complete rostered volunteer helicopter patrols, attend regular training sessions, monthly crew meetings, and participate in other activities organised by the service. Please note that the majority of our operations are conducted from the Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter Bases at Barwon Heads & Moorabbin Airports.

Crew members are required to be readily available for service activities at both bases. Due to the significant investment of time and resources in training, we ask for a minimum commitment of three (3) years from applicants, except in exceptional circumstances.

In addition to your helicopter duties, engaged involvement in your club and fulfillment of club beach patrol commitments are also expected.

Prospective candidates should be aware that vacancies are limited, and the selection process is rigorous. Meeting the minimum criteria does not guarantee acceptance.

### Recruitment Information Session

The WLRHS will host a Recruitment Information Session on 08/7/2024, starting at 7PM at Life Saving Victoria in Port Melbourne.

The purpose of this session is to provide detailed information about the expectations and requirements for helicopter crew roles.

This session is intended for those who are seriously considering submitting an expression of interest.

Please ensure you register in advance. If you plan to attend, please register your attendance by COB 03/7/2024 using the [registration link provided here](#).

## Minimum Crew Applicant Criteria

To be suitable to submit an expression of interest you must meet the following minimum criteria:

- Be a minimum 19 years of age as at the time of submitting an EOI
- 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 an excellent record of patrol attendance over several years
- Have excellent teamwork skills
- Current Driver's License
- Current Working with Children Check
- Be proficient in the minimum awards as outlined below
- Gain written endorsement from Club President, Secretary or Club Captain
- Be willing to undertake drug and alcohol testing at commencement of training and each rostered patrol
- Able to pass a relevant background check to gain an Aviation Security Identification Card (ASIC)

## Minimum Lifesaving Awards

If you do not hold these lifesaving awards prior to the expression of interests closing of the EOI in August, you cannot apply for this position. All awards must be current. Your current details will be extracted from and confirmed by SurfGuard. You must confirm these at [portal.sls.com.au](http://portal.sls.com.au) prior to making an expression of interest.

- Bronze Medallion
- Advanced Resuscitation Techniques [AID]
- First Aid [AID]

Other awards additional to those specified above will be considered when selecting candidates. Demonstrated Beach Management, IRB & RWC experience, and previous participation at Advanced Lifesaving Camp/Course will be particularly well regarded.

## Helicopter Crew Fitness/Operational Test Requirements

The fitness test criteria are continually being reassessed considering 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 carry out Helicopter crew duties safely and efficiently.

At a minimum, trainee crew applicants who meet the above crew applicant criteria will be required to complete the following:

- 400m swim within a time limit of no more than seven (7) minutes and thirty (30) seconds
- 1.6km run within a time limit of no more than seven (7) minutes
- Step-Off from an elevated platform (being comfortable at heights)
- 5 x wide grip pull ups
- 15 Push Ups
- One Person Patient Drag on land
- 200m patient rescue tow in pool
- Retrieve object from pool depth of 5m

## Commitment 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 can vary, starting from as early as 7am, or ending as late as 8.30pm
- Rostered duty may result in crew remaining at locations overnight
- New trainee crew will be required to be available and flexible for several days for initial training, likely requiring both weekday and weekend availability. **This will most likely fall between 1<sup>st</sup> October – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024**, but is subject to change.

- Crew must provide availability for a minimum of 12 shifts spread between Boxing Day and Australia Day and can expect to be rostered on to an average of at least 2 shifts per week during this time
- They must also provide availability for a minimum of 2 shifts per month for the patrol season outside of the peak period and can expect to be rostered to an average of at least 1 shift per month
- Applicants must consider that in complying with crew requirements they can still maintain a balanced and healthy lifestyle

## Applications

[Complete and return the Expression of Interest](#). Expressions of Interest must be received by 11:59pm Sunday 14th July 2024.

Applicants will also need to submit a Resume and Cover Letter as well as the minimum applicant criteria outlined above. The Cover Letter should be no more than one (1) page in length covering the following:

- Motivation to join the WLRHS
- Experience in lifesaving operations
- What attributes you would bring to the team

Please note that the period dates may be subject to change based on availability.

Following WLRHS Operational Fitness Testing, the applicants will again be shortlisted to then participate in a Panel Interview (online) shortly after the fitness testing period.

Please note that not everyone who attends the Recruitment Information Session and submits an EOI should expect an invitation to the WLRHS Operational Fitness Testing Session. Likewise, applicants who attend the WLRHS Operational Fitness Testing should not expect to be offered an interview.

The applicant will also be evaluated throughout the full duration of the Recruitment Information Session and Operational Fitness Testing Session to test requirements as to their suitability. Please note not all applicants will be successful, and the selection panel's choice is final.

Research shows us that women won't always apply for a role if they don't tick all the boxes. If you fall into that category we would love to hear from you, so we can assess your ability and even if you aren't ready now, you might just be at our next intake.

Life Saving Victoria (LSV) is an equal opportunity employer and a place who welcomes all. We encourage people with diverse experiences and backgrounds to apply. We are committed to fostering a workplace environment which is inclusive, safe, and flexible.

LSV is committed to providing a welcoming environment where the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people involved in our programs, services, activities, events, and the broader community, will always be our first priority. All staff must hold (or be willing to obtain) a current Victorian Working with Children Check as part of their volunteering with us.

## Additional Applicant Resources

LSV have prepared resources and programs to assist members to prepare for helicopter recruitment.

The LSV Fitness @ Home program contains a fitness training program specific to the helicopter service fitness requirements, we would encourage applicants to utilise this resource to prepare for operational fitness testing:

[Training Weeks 1-4](#)

[Training Weeks 5-8](#)

LSV Volunteer Training will be running courses and skills maintenance sessions for operational members to prepare for the upcoming season.

We would encourage applicants to reach out to your Life Saving Club to ensure all awards are up to date prior to the close of recruitment.

## WLRHS Crew Recruitment: Indicative timeline\*

Wednesday 12 June	EOI Circular Released
Wednesday 3 July	Registration for information session due
Monday 8 July	Recruitment Information Session
Sunday 14 July	Recruitment EOI closes
TBA 24 to 31 July	Operational Testing Session
TBA 5 to 16 Aug	Interviews conducted
Wednesday 21st Aug	Key mandatory training date**
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Potential key training date**
1 <sup>st</sup> Oct – 8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Potential helicopter training window**

***\*please bear in mind this timeline is indicative only, and some items may be subject to change based on stakeholder availability.***

***\*\*please keep mandatory training dates clear or advise if any concerns.***



For additional details on this circular please contact:

Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter Service on 03 9676 6722 or email [helicopter.ops@lsv.com.au](mailto:helicopter.ops@lsv.com.au)