

Minutes – Lifesaving Operations Council Meeting

VENUE: Life Saving Victoria State Centre

DATE: Wednesday 1 April 2020

1) Welcome, Attendance and Apologies Remotely Accessing

David Rylance, Katrina Antony, Alison Porter, Simon Wilson, Kane Treloar, Mask Scott ESM, Hugh Day, Jack Slykhuis, Grace Lightfoot, Alexander Walton, Barrie Smith OAM, Christopher Sharam, Cohen Doyle, Darren McLeod, Gordon Porter, Hamish McKendrick, James Quine, Jennarose Sheehan, Nick Giblin, Paul Lunny, Terry Aslanidis, Justin Taylor, Max Eldridge, Dominic Santullo, Cath Paulsen, Alex Fletcher, Neil Dyson, Simon Berry, Chris Sharam, Maddy Green, Sean Conquit, Brooke Gee, Rhy Bartlett, Aidan Moriarty, Andrew Napoleone, Steve Whelan, Michael Henderson, Michael Barbarino, Katie Antony, Margaret Hewett, Erin Hall, Andrew May, Ross Mariner, Bill Johnson, Lloyd Thomas, Lucas Welsh, Tom Pearson, Ryan Towers, Justin Taylor, Bec Johnson, Trish Armonio, Michael Artz, Scott McKenzie, Nick Wootton, James Carew, Steve Thirlwall, Matthew Taylor.

Note: there were also numerous people who dialled into the phone call or who only identified as their first name.

Staff

Mevan Jayawardena (Chief Operating Officer), David Potter (Manager Volunteer Support), Andy Dennis (General Manager - Public Training and Pool Safety), Simon White (General Manager Lifesaving Services), Liam Krige (Manager Lifesaving Operations), Greg Seeto (Governance Specialist), Brianna Newson (Operations Manager, Lifeguards), Nigel Taylor ESM (Chief Executive Officer), Paul Shannon (General Manager Government and Industry Relations), Todd Richards (Manager Lifesaving Policy).

2) Welcome – Simon Wilson (Chair)

- i. Simon provided a welcome to the Life Saving Operations Council Meeting to the volunteers and staff. This meeting was scheduled to provide updated operations information.

3) Current Situation – Simon White (General Manager Lifesaving Services)

- i. Simon White - There are 968 confirmed cases, 4 deaths and 344 recovered. Death rate international is 4.7%, in Australia its less than .5%. This is good news and from the chart you can see the curve is starting slowly to bend back. The other agencies are seeing that as a positive sign.
- ii. The cases by mode of acquisition are still primarily from overseas travel, 581 people, and 383 people have had contact with one of those travellers.
- iii. There areas where we have active patrols still have a low number of cases, with the exception of metropolitan Melbourne and the Mornington Peninsular.
- iv. Stage three restrictions are in place with Police enforcing these with a \$1600 fine if breached.



- v. The four reasons to leave your house are for: Food and Supplies, Exercise, Medical care and for work and education.

4) Changes to Patrol – Kane Treloar (Director Lifesaving Services)

- i. There has been a lot going on in people's lives and I appreciate you all still giving up your time to contribute to this.
- ii. There was some feedback received and I want to address this. LSV is currently between a rock and a hard place and have a responsibility to support government whilst supporting and protecting the members. There have been some discussions that the decision to patrol last weekend was purely financial. A significant majority of LSV funding comes from government, and if there was a cut to funding this would primarily affect clubs. A lot of the administrative burden and support by Volunteer Support Officers would be pushed back onto the clubs. If you wanted to discuss further, please contact me offline.
- iii. Last weekend, thanks to the clubs that supported us. We had meetings late on Friday, and then Beaches start closing from 7am on Saturday morning. There were large numbers of people on the surf coast, so this certainly justifies this position. We also prevented a drowning which would have occurred if we were not there. Things are changing daily, and I wanted to thank the staff for their dedication and long hours of work.
- iv. From this weekend onwards all clubs will be released from their patrol protocols going forward. This coming weekend and the Easter weekend. This decision is made regardless of what decision is made from Land Managers. What will occur is that LSV will continue to use Lifeguards on the RWC services, from six locations, the Westpac Helicopter will continue to fly, and LSV Comms will continue to be manned. LSV will have responsibility for co-ordination this staff level service.
- v. The Lifesaving Operations Officers are there to support you and they will be able to answer most of your questions.
- vi. All clubs will need to fill in an emergency response plan, which will be in an easy to fill out Wufoo form. People will most likely still be going to their holiday houses over Easter, and it is likely they will go to the water.
- vii. We are expecting clubs to provide a higher level of emergency response than they ordinarily would. If you can update your emergency contacts, provide an approximate time frame for response. The emergency response plans will be managed by the LOO's, who are volunteers and they will help you with this plan. We went down this path due to feedback from Police, EMV, and feedback from clubs and members.
- viii. Failure to file an emergency response plan will be seen in the same way as defaulting on a patrol.
- ix. That in combination with the other measures will allow us to provide a good level of response.
- x. There are some requirements; 18 years older and less than 65 years of age, not in an at-risk category, and living/working near the club and able to respond.

Question: Can someone under the age of 18 participate?

K. Treloar - No. If it will cause hardship to then discuss with your LOO.

Question: Which RWC sites.

K. Treloar - There will be six sites; Port Phillip, Kingston, Peninsular, Geelong, Surf Coast and trying to get Bass as well.

Question: Are clubs able to continue to patrol?

K. Treloar - Speak with you LOO about this.



Question: Why not under 18's:

S. White - This is due to advice from EMV, due to likely risk of exposure, and that under 18yo are unable to be classified on an adult basis.

K. Treloar – We understand the clubs' position and unfortunately, we need to abide by advice from EMV, and have to work within the rules we have been given.

Question: We might not be able to respond to emergencies without under 18yo's.

K. Treloar – I will put an action on Simon to follow up with these clubs to work through it.

Question: Can LSV provide a letter to members who are responding if they are pulled over by Police.

K. Treloar – You are exempt.

S. White – You are exempt if responding for a legitimate purpose and or lifesaving response.

Motion to approve change in Patrol Response.

Moved: Bec Johnson

Seconded: Lloyd Thomas.

Carried.

Question: Does, the emergency response team need to present to a call out in full patrol uniform.

K. Treloar – It would be like any call out, out of season. The members turn up to the club and do what they do.

Question: Would be good if we had a contact for when police tell us to leave as was case by local police on the weekend any advice.

K. Treloar – As this was for an observation patrol it will be different this weekend. If there are issues, please contact LSV Comms and they will contact the Duty Officer for you.

5) Media Update – Kane Treloar (Director Lifesaving Services)

- i. Media is a very difficult scenario, we pushed on things we believed in which were not supported by all levels of government. Not having a message from Lifesaving advising if it is safe to swim, is inconsistent with 20 years of the 'Play it Safe by the Water' campaign. We understand the messages are not clear and conflicting. All media needs to be approved before coming out from LSV. Unfortunately, that is the scenario we are operating in. We are hoping that a clear message will be possible this weekend.
- ii. The rules as per last weekend stand. Clubs can't put anything on any public facing social media and clubs can't be involved in any media. Refer everything back to the LSV media team. Clubs operating closed Facebook groups can put information to patrolling members on that. I encourage you to point them to the LSV [Health Alerts](#) webpage and Circulars. Please don't post anything on social media.

Question: To confirm we have power to close beaches.

K. Treloar – We have no power to close beaches; this is for the Land Managers and DHHS. I don't want any clubs trying to enforce any rules put out by government.

Question: Can we share post from local council to our FB page?

K. Treloar – Anything put out by Local Government or State Government you can share or retweet on your social media pages. That's information that's publicly available and out there already. We are trying to get government to support us and to put something out there really clear about what we are doing.

- iii. The PSESP competition has now ended and the LSOC Executive will work through that. It will all be transparent and communicate once it has been decided.



- iv. All communications around patrols and operations come through this group. If your club presidents are looking for information, or you are looking for information this is where it is going to be handed out. You are the club delegates
- v. There will be a time in the next 3-4 weeks we will be called upon to support non-traditional lifesaving activities. This may not go beyond the planning stage, but that time is not far away and is the message that has been made to us by our partners and Ambulance Victoria. Consider what your club could do, from facilities to membership to work out what the contribution you think you could provide. LSV is a strong candidate to support due to the young age of membership.
- vi. Please start thinking about it as the conversations are ongoing.

6) Questions on Notice

Question: Bass Coast health indicated they may be looking for Defibs with monitors:

K. Treloar – I'll speak to you offline.

Question: Two clubs have asked about donating PPE.

K. Treloar – The answer is no. This a share LSV resource and we don't know what you may be called upon to do, or what LSV will be required to do and we may need to shift this around LSV. We may even provide you further PPE.

Question: Are there supposed to masks in the care package?

T. Richards - There are two packages one with gloves and cleaning products, and the second package which is a large orange box of masks (250).

Meeting Close at 7.55pm.

