

Minutes – Lifesaving Operations Council Meeting

VENUE: Life Saving Victoria State Centre

DATE: Thursday 7 May 2020

1) Welcome, Attendance and Apologies

Remotely Accessing

David Rylance, Katrina Antony, Simon Wilson, Kane Treloar, Mask Scott ESM, Hugh Day, Jack Slykhuis, Grace Lightfoot, Alexander Walton, Sandra Madeley, Cath Paulsen, Davina Jackson, Sean Lenehan, Erin Damen, Toby Dobell, James Carew, Michael Barbarino, Darren McLeod, Nick Foon, Steve Whelan, Justin Taylor, Geoff Thomptone, Peter McDonell, Alexandra Bartska, Andrew McKinnon, Jason Menz, Stewart Lockie, Guy Davenport, Lucas Welsh, Andrew Napoleone, Darren Gill, Charles Barton, Steven Thirlwall, Jack Kennedy, Paul Scherf, Phil Hughes, Jameson Trainor, Alex Buckley, Joel Farrow, Andrew May, Colin Williams, Sue O'Rourke, Craig Stoodley, Dominic Santullo, Matthew Taylor, Margaret Hewett, Ross Mariner, Chenayde Reid, Josephine McDowall, Vincent Sheehan, Nick Wooton, Rhys Bartlett, Calton Baillon, Chris Paterson, Thomas Pearson, Charlie Bidgood.

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

Staff

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), Micah Speeding (Manager Volunteer Training), Todd Richards (Manager Lifesaving Policy), Sharyn Brigham (Volunteer Support Officer), Mitch James (Operations Co-ordinator – Lifeguards)

2) Welcome – Simon Wilson (Chair)

- i. Simon provided a welcome to the Life Saving Operations Council Meeting to the volunteers and staff.

3) Lifesaving Capability and Resource Review (LCARR) Project Update – Dr B. Matthews

What we are looking with the review is to understand the expectations of the community and government, volunteer members and then also from an operational perspective.

Have completed the scoping and discovery aspects and now in the consolidation stage. We have now completed the volunteer mini census and survey with over 2000 responses which is fantastic and exceeds our target of 10% active volunteer membership over 17 years of age.

Information was collected through the conference, youth symposium and various committee meetings, focus groups and some interviews. 32% of clubs reached over 10% of their membership, and all 57 clubs reached more than 4% of their members.



We are now working on the draft report which will be completed by August. Once complete it will be sent out to everyone for feedback before the report is formally released in November.

4) Executive and Staff Update

i. Operations – K. Treloar

There has been an upwards trend over a ten-year average for preventative actions. This is consistent across the country.

Reflective of a much cooler summer this year, and in relation to rescues per capital the numbers are more inflated than that. This information will be shared with clubs, land managers and councils.

The average age of a patrolling member is under thirty. A lot of work is being done by M&LD and the expansion of nipper programs to build family clubs.

Patrol defaults and the data around this is ongoing. On the back of the COVID-19 situation we will review the data and understand the situation. A lot of work has been done by the regional clubs and now there is an emerging trend in Port Phillip area and with the closer clubs around defaults and no shows.

A copy of the LCARR will be shared with our partners and government to highlight that LSV undertakes a review and reflection of services and to continue to conversation of where we are going.

Question: Where do the reports go?

K. Treloar – Depending on the reports they will either be shared with the club or with LSV partners/Government. In terms of the LCARR this will be transparent and share so that we are accountable, and the information is shared.

ii. Training and Assessment – D. Rylance

The end of the season was not what we wanted it to be. A number of clubs were in the middle of courses or had courses booked. We are looking at how we will finish those courses and what we can do moving forward.

The training team is still working very hard with our senior volunteers to keep the outcomes from the review moving forward. A review of Volunteer Training was conducted which brought about the Volunteer training handbook. Scenarios handbook has been developed and will be circulated to the executive prior to further consultation.

Bronze Medallion/Surf Rescue certificate has had a number of changes from SLSA with a number of units and names changed.

End of year reporting has been completed and due to events, we are expecting the numbers to be down.

Trainers courses that were advised were filled extremely quickly which was un-expected. Those courses will continue online but are a pilot and we will see what happens in the next few weeks with social distancing. We are looking to do more courses in the future and to review how the courses are allocated and who can apply.

Question: Is there a potential for boat licence fees to be waived?

K. Treloar – there is no option for boat licences fees to be waived. Simon White and Liam Krige have spoken to MSV and government but are continuing to explore grant opportunities and subsidies.

Question: Any up and coming assessors' courses?



A. Dennis – The new assessor courses, upskilling courses and cert IV which were put on in November are all the courses that are currently planned.

Question: SMAR and Beach Management Blended Courses?

D. Rylance – SMAR is not a high priority, beach management is going through a review at State and National level. At this stage not doing much with those courses until the reviews are completed.

Question: How do you get on Subject Matter expert groups?

A. Dennis – Speak to Micah and he will assist with getting you on that group.

Question: Assessment Cert IV and ability to be run online?

A. Dennis - The preference of the provider is not to do it online. In terms of the course they should be easier to get up and running sooner. There is no rescue component and it should be easier to facilitate.

5) COVID-19 Ambulance model – L. Krige

We went out for expressions of interest just over three weeks ago. This was based off the current pandemic and potential support requirement. Ambulance Victoria (AV) saw a need to work in a destination management capacity, or in a co-responding team. A number of organisations were approached, but we are the leading organisation in terms of planning.

There were 235 responses in total, which was a good result and very encouraging.

We are in constant communication with AV and the next steps sit with them to define the requirements and pre-requisites. This will then feed into the type of induction and training required for those roles. We will then contact the individuals and let them know where we are at and what is required.

The timelines have been pushed further along and there may be some cross over with the patrol season. We are there to assist and support AV as an emergency service partner and to provide support where we can.

6) Future Direction of Volunteer Training – A. Dennis

We are recommending the units of competency are removed from the Surf Rescue Certificate and Bronze Medallion certificate. Public training courses could be leveraged in the East and West to deliver and support regional TAFs. Looking to tidy up the current units and streams to make them consistent across different streams.

There are no significant changes and this will not affect the courses but should reduce the administrative burden for trainers and support clubs. NSW is looking to do a similar thing and are basing their recommendations on LSV.

We have developed the handbook and did the review. We have continued to tidy things up and to focus on our plan on a page.

There are a lot of benefits and there are a number of proposed next steps involving, TAOs, members and the executive. We appreciate feedback and although we are unlikely to get full support, we are looking to do this for the greater good.

Question: What are you doing to appease the members who use the 001?

A. Dennis – The average patrolling member will hold the Bronze and that course, through First Aid. The CPR course in its own right is still available. Public Training courses are delivered all over Victoria and there is no reason why we cannot open these up to members. Aquatic Sports are exploring RPL for the Cert II for Aussies and this has been taken to national for discussion.



7) New Awards/Skills Maintenance – A. Dennis

The reality is that some are up, and some are down. Overall, the numbers are up but not the be all and end all. We need to work towards aquatic rescue and Silver Medallion Beach management. We really want a broader base and the focus will be rebuilding and refining the SMAR and beach management course.

The overall training delivery numbers are up. This is good considering despite the fact we have lost 3 months of the year. We still have 49 course which are waiting for evidence to finish processing them.

We have taken TOC back to the table. Delivery by webinar is not the preference so the exec is looking at different options, and to give it to TOC, and Senior Trainers and Assessors from different regions, and not just by circular.

8) Strategic direction of Lifesaving Operations – K. Treloar

The Lifesaving Operations Strategic plan expires at the end of this year. Traditionally this has been put together by staff only, so looking to expand this to LSOC delegates, clubs' captains etc...

Everything comes back to the mission and vision. It provides a broad understanding of what we are trying to achieve and provides goals and strategic actions.

The board will decide the mission and vision for the next five years and operations will work within this framework. This will help to inform the Operations work plan over the next 12-18 months and we are looking to have the strategic plan drafted and ready by July 2020.

9) End of Season Feedback Discussion

See PowerPoint presentation.

10) Questions/Open Forum

Question: With the Ambulance Co-responder model how does the insurance work? This was covered by Liam Krige but any activity with Ambulance Victoria will be insured by both Ambulance Victoria and Life Saving Victoria's own volunteer compensation act.

Question: SLSA have an app for skills maintenance.

D. Rylance – this was put out untested and there are a lot of issue with it. We are looking at options for skills maintenance but have not found a solution to cover all scenarios. We are considering options and are continuing to move forward with an LSV solution.

K. Treloar – If there is an IT system for training or operations and will work, we are happy to explore it. A lot of IT systems from SLSA are un-tested and will make it harder so we will not pursue them.

Question: When are there going to be a training program for EMLO's?

L. Krige – Still look at that and keen to progress. Not sure what it looks like, but it will be part of an upgraded communications package and for EMLO's.

Meeting Close at 8.17pm.

