

Public Safety Training Package Review: Aquatic Search and Rescue Sector

Information Update 2

December 2007

Issues Paper v1.0 drafted

The Project Reference Group will release Version 1.0 of the Issues Paper early in the new year that will inform the review of the aquatic search and rescue sector. The purpose of the Paper is to consolidate all available information about the changing nature of the aquatic search and rescue sector, including stakeholders' needs and suggestions for improvements to the Training Package that have been identified since the last review.

The following sources of information have been used thus far in the development of the Issues Paper:

- Review of the Phase I submission and to consider additional areas of work as a result of additional requirements specified by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (formerly DEST);
- Consultations undertaken in States and Territories by State and Territory Education Managers. Feedback has been shared across the Australian Lifesaving Academy and consolidated for further analysis and review;
- Feedback from participants in surf lifesaving training programs collected by Education Managers that has been used as part of an internal continuous improvement process; and
- Feedback collected by other sectors and peak bodies that may inform and/or impact upon the aquatic search and rescue related competency standards and qualifications.

The issues identified to date have been divided into five broad groups, and include:"

- The current and future roles and functions of the aquatic search and rescue sector;
- Identification of the gaps and future needs of the sector, including new competency standards that need development;
- Incorporation of any training programs that currently meet a need that can be developed into new competency standards;

- Refinements and improvements to existing units of competency; and
- Improvements to the qualifications and identification of Skill Sets. (More information on Skill Sets can be found on Information Update 1)

A copy of the Issues Paper will be available on the project webpage once final amendments have been made to Skill Sets and the qualification framework.

Visit www.governmentskills.com.au and click on the Public Safety links to the Aquatic Search and Rescue sector project webpage.

Consultation on the proposed qualification framework and Skill Sets will commence in January 2008. Please refer to the project webpage for specific information.

2008 - a new era for GSA

While the key focus of the Public Safety area is towards the review of the Public Safety Training Package, the future for Government Skills Australia (GSA) is positive and encouraging. While the 'fine detail' has not yet been made known to the organisation by the Department for Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR, that has replaced DEST), the GSA team have been assured that the year ahead is going to see a number of key developments to the work of GSA with its stakeholders.

It is a great way to end the year that was at times masked by uncertainty and caution, and stresses the importance of not only completing the review of the Training Package, but doing it well! Have a great break everyone!

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This project is being undertaken in partnership with

