

Public Safety Training Package Review: SES Sector

Information Update 1

November 2007

Phase II update

The second phase of the Public Safety Training Package (PUA00) review commenced in July 2007 with all sectors progressing the issues that were identified in the first phase completed in late 2006. Two additional areas to be explored in Phase II, specifically rationalisation and Skill Sets, have been included in the project scope.

The National Education and Training Committee (NETC) is the project reference group for the State and Territory Emergency Services (SES) Sector of the review. The NETC agreed on a number of strategies at the October 2007 meeting held in Perth. Among them included the development of a Position Paper to inform the consultations for the sector.

A number of synergies between the SES sector and other sectors within the public safety industry have already been identified, and these will be further explored during the consultation opportunities during the next six months. Representatives of the SES sector have already contributed to the development of the Emergency Management sector *Key Issues Paper* and the Aquatic Search and Rescue sector *Qualifications Framework*.

In summary, the SES sector will focus attention to the following areas of the Training Package:

- ◆ the seven (7) SES 'specific' units of competency;
- ◆ the qualifications pathway, especially identifying opportunities for members to specialise in more than one area;
- ◆ the identification of Skill Sets for paid and volunteer members that reflect the diverse range of roles and functions within the SES; and
- ◆ designing a robust and progressive framework for the SES that will meet the current and future needs of the sector.

The primary point of contact for the SES sector is Andy Smith (GSA Public Safety Project Officer). Up to date information can also be found on the Government Skills Australia website: www.governmentskills.com.au and follow the Public Safety links.

Have your say

One of the strengths of the Public Safety Training Package is that from its complex beginning in 1999/2000, it has been dependent on the contributions from people within the sector who are doing the actual work involved. **This will continue to be the cornerstone of future versions of the Training Package.**

All stakeholders who are interested in, or affected by, the future directions of the SES sector are encouraged to contribute during the review when opportunities to do so are made available.

The NETC has a representative in each State and Territory, and contact details can be found on the project webpage. The webpage will also include details of any workshops and forums that have been organised as part of the consultation strategy.

Government Skills Australia is developing an Issues Register to capture specific feedback from stakeholders. Links to the Issues Register will be added to the project webpage when testing has been completed.

A challenge ahead

There are over 80 endorsed Training Packages used by Registered Training Organisations across Australia. Each is designed to reflect the roles and work within its sector. A unique challenge of the Public Safety Training Package is recognising that for every paid employee within the sector, there can be up to 15 volunteers doing the same, or very similar, types of work.

Project Contact Details

Andy Smith (GSA Public Safety Project Officer) has been appointed as the SES Sectors project manager for the review. Andy has a wealth of experience in learning and development as well as project management. He has also worked for a number of volunteer based organisations and understands the specific needs of volunteer emergency service organisations.

Andy is based at the GSA office in Melbourne.

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