



**MARINE  
RESCUE**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## **Commitment required from Volunteers**

### **RECRUITMENT PROCESS:**

If you are comfortable with the commitment we require from volunteers (this document) then please fill in the attached Marine Rescue Whitfords Application Form and return via email to [personnel@whitfordssearescue.org.au](mailto:personnel@whitfordssearescue.org.au) If eligible you will then be invited to our next New Volunteers Information Night (NVIN) where you will get an opportunity to learn more about Marine Rescue in Western Australia as well as Marine Rescue Whitfords operations, rostering, etc. After the NVIN if you decide to not continue with your application you may pull out at any time.

### **NEW VOLUNTEERS AND PROBATIONARY PERIOD:**

As part of joining Marine Rescue Whitfords (the group) you will become a Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) volunteer which will require you to undergo a national police check through fit2work. All new volunteers will start as trainees and are required to complete a 6-month probation period during which they will have the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to Marine Rescue Whitfords duties and activities. Completion of this probation period is also required for promotion to a VMR2 Shore Based Radio Operator and VMR3 Marine Rescue Crew.

### **DUTY OPTIONS:**

#### **Minimum Duty Requirements (Option 1 or 2 is Mandatory):**

**Radio Option 1: (Weekend Radio)** You will be assigned to a radio watch. Weekend Radio duty normally consists of one half-day shift every 4 weeks. Shifts are either morning or afternoon and 6hrs in duration. Long weekends and other public holidays may require extra shifts from time to time. The shifts are on a specified regular roster basis. The Radio Watch Coordinator will contact members with specific duty details not less than two weeks in advance. The radio rosters are also available online. We appreciate that at times, you may not be available for radio duty. Duties can be missed on occasion by prior arrangement for leave or other needs.

**Radio Option 2: (Midweek, Evening or Overnight Radio)** Midweek duties are mostly covered by people who have flexible working arrangements or retirees and who make themselves available while most others are working. Midweek, Evening or Overnight Radio

duty consists of a minimum of one shift every two weeks but ideally one shift per week.

**General and Support Activities:** All volunteers are expected from time to time to participate in general and support activities, such as attending meetings and training sessions, volunteering for fund-raising activities and assisting with housekeeping when required.

### **Boat Duty (Optional but Recommended):**

**Weekend & Night Boat Crew:** Weekend Boat duty normally consists of 1-2 full-day shifts every 4 weeks. Shifts are from 08:00 to 17:00 (Hours vary slightly for summer months). During the week, following a weekend boat duty, volunteers are required to make themselves available, if needed, to be called out for after-hours/overnight search and rescue operations if they arise. To be eligible for boat duty, volunteers must do one of the radio duty options and should reside within approximately 20 minutes travel time to Hillarys Boat Harbour (calculated by Google Earth

As with radio duties, you would be allocated to a boat squad and shifts would be on a regular rostered basis.

**Daytime Midweek Boat Crew (optional):** Midweek duties are covered by a dedicated team of volunteers (mostly people who have flexible working arrangements or retirees) who make themselves available while most others are working. Midweek (daytime) search and rescue operations are not mandatory as we understand that most people are working in these times and as such these are covered by a separate call out list which you may volunteer for if you choose. To be eligible for midweek (day) boat duty you must also do weekend boat duties.

### **MEETINGS & SUPPORT ACTIVITIES:**

General meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, (except December), commencing at 19:00. Fund-raising and housekeeping activities occur several times per year.

Volunteer's willingness to participate in meetings and support activities will be taken into consideration as part of promotion or other assessments.

### **QUALIFICATIONS:**

Recreational Skippers Ticket (RST): New volunteers intending to perform boat crew duties are expected to either hold their RST (or higher) or to obtain an RST prior to the end of their probation. The RST is a mandatory requirement for promotion from Trainee to VMR3 Marine Rescue Crew.

Other AMSA accredited training is provided by both Marine Rescue Whitfords and DFES to enable volunteers to progress in both the radio and boat sections (see training section below).

### **TRAINING:**

In addition to "hands on" training for boat crews and radio operators, you will also be

required to undertake:

- AMSA/DFES commercial based theory training (tailored to Marine Rescue).
- Provide first Aid / CPR Required for all active volunteers on radio or boat duty. CPR must be renewed every year and First Aid every 3 years.
- LROCP: run "in house" by ACMA accredited invigilator. Lifetime qualification.
- To ensure members have the skills to carry out their duties, there are training exercises on a regular basis. This training may be on the water or in our operations centre at Ocean Reef and all boat crew are required to attend.

\*For the first year of a volunteer's service non-boat training courses must be paid for by the volunteer; on completion of 1 year of service training costs may be reimbursed by Marine Rescue and any further training costs will be covered by Marine Rescue.

### **UNIFORMS:**

While on probation you will be issued a hi-visibility DFES Marine Rescue shirt and should wear this with either dark coloured trousers or dark coloured knee length shorts. You should be similarly presentable in person. On completion of probation volunteers will be issued with full DFES Marine Rescue uniform which will then become the expected attire while on duty.

### **DRUGS, ALCOHOL & SMOKING:**

Maximum allowable Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) is 0.0% for any Marine Rescue Duty. Other than prescribed and approved medication you must not be under the influence of any drug while on duty. Smokers are accepted provided you do not smoke other than in approved land-based smoking areas. Smoking in either our buildings or while on our vessels is not permitted.