

Volunteers needed - create the future of Ski Patrolling



The Australian Ski Patrol Association has an enviable reputation as a provider of some of the best advanced emergency-care training in Australia. Ski Patrollers work without supervision or recourse to immediately available medical support. They operate in extreme weather and geographic circumstances, and are exposed to a casualty level of injury that is not regularly found in any other recreational environment. In some instances it can be many hours before a casualty can reach appropriate medical care. And, it is Ski Patrol that maintains life, stabilises and transports the casualty to that care.

In the manner of the good Samaritan, Ski Patrollers give their time and energy to help people, dedicating their own time to train and develop the professional skills necessary for such a demanding job.

The practices and methods of the Australian Ski Patrol are constantly being improved with innovative and often unique skills being developed. The standards are high, and that has made it possible for Australian Ski Patrol to receive recognition and certification from industry and government agencies including Workcover for their skills.

As high as the standards and as good as the training, the Australian Ski Patrol must always strive to achieve the best possible treatment for those who need Ski Patrol help.

Objectives

Therefore, the Australian Ski Patrol Association has embarked on an ambitious program to fully document and register its training products and practices. The goals of this program are many, but primarily they are to:

- a. fully document its training procedures, providing instructor notes and competency specifications to ensure that every Ski Patroller meets the high standards that it sets for emergency care,
- b. gain Vocational Education and Training Accreditation Board approval for its programs, ensuring that the Ski Patrollers' skills are recognised by the wider community and are transferable to other industries,
- c. provide training and development for people who wish to have a long term career path in the ski industry.

Methods

To be able to achieve these goals, the Australian Ski Patrol has authorised the Education Committee to commence work on the projects to deliver the outcomes. They in turn have asked for assistance from a professional training and development organisation to coordinate the technical requirements.

There are two parts to the certification:

- a. development of the training curriculum, and
- b. registration of the Australian Ski Patrol as a registered training organisation.

Both parts require the expertise and assistance of members of Ski Patrol.

The Direction Forward

Any Ski Patroller, trainer or associate who may wish to contribute to this project is asked to contact the Vice President Education.

There are many levels of help that you can provide. Some of you will have a lot of time, others can contribute with technical advice, others can talk through the practices so that we can record them. Yet others will be able to type up notes and competency standards. Whether small or large, we have a job for you.

This project is significant; and everyone who works on it will need to be on-board. So, you will be provided with an information pack: guidelines, philosophy, directions, technical specifications, templates, or just general information.

A Possible Overview

To get the overall picture, below is a schematic of a possible outcome (please provide your comments).

