



## **National Pool Lifeguard Award (NPLA) – Industry Update**

The following changes to the NPLA will affect your operations. This memo is to provide clarification and consistency for the training and assessment of the NPLA.

### **NPLA Training Manual**

A new edition of the NPLA Training Manual is now available from NZRA. The new manual has been redesigned and includes some changes to the content. Initially the cost of the new NPLA Manual will be \$20.00 +gst (the same cost as the old manual). NZRA still intend to provide an electronic version of all NPLA training resources on the NZRA website in the future.

Order the new NPLA Manual by sending an email to [info@nzrecreation.org.nz](mailto:info@nzrecreation.org.nz).

### **NPLA Workbook**

The new NPLA Manual is supported by a workbook for candidates to complete during their training. An electronic version of the new workbook will be available on the NZRA website and via email free of charge. This workbook integrates the record of assessment for NPLA.

Order the new NPLA Workbook by sending an email to [info@nzrecreation.org.nz](mailto:info@nzrecreation.org.nz).

### **NPLA Instructors Guide**

A NPLA Instructors Guide will be available to assist NPLA training soon. The cost and delivery of the resources has yet to be determined. A supplementary PowerPoint presentation is being planned. A NPLA Instructors course is also being proposed to support NPLA Trainers.

*For any other queries about the National Pool Lifeguard Award Manual and Workbook please contact James Livingston ([james@nzrecreation.org.nz](mailto:james@nzrecreation.org.nz)) at NZRA.*

### **NPLA Assessment**

A new Assessor Toolkit is available to be used for all NPLA assessments. The new assessor toolkit is aligned to the new NPLA Training Manual and workbook. All assessors will receive a copy of the new Assessor Toolkit by the end of November 2009. In the meantime, continue to use the existing Skills Active Assessor Toolkit.

*Any questions regarding the NPLA assessment or moderation should be directed to your Skills Active Relationship Manager.*

### **Qualification Costs**

The current cost of \$40.00 +gst for a new lifeguard will remain. Please note that completion of the award must be advised to Skills Active for all Lifeguards to ensure their personal record of learning is updated at NZQA and they are recorded on the Lifeguard register.

All revalidating lifeguards must also be reported to Skills Active to maintain their currency status on the Lifeguard register. The cost of this is \$10.00 +gst every 2 years, on the anniversary of revalidation.

## Revalidation

The NPLA remains valid for 2 years. NZRA is currently taking advice on moving to annual revalidation, including NPLA training recommendations and templates. Those organisations who currently provide regular lifeguard training will be virtually unaffected by the proposed annual renewal process. More detailed information on this will be distributed for consultation after the 2010 summer season. Further discussion is also planned at the NZRA regional forums in April 2010.

## Swim Tests

The new NPLA manual includes a prerequisite swim test. This swim test has been tested extensively and modified over the past 3 months. Thank you to the many organisations and individuals who provided feedback on this. This swim test is currently an Industry requirement and not embedded in the NPLA unit standards.

The swim test and current requirement for NPLA assessment within the Unit Standards is "Swimming proficiently". This is defined in the special notes of U5683 as the following (each activity immediately followed by the next)

- swimming 100m of any stroke continuously (togs and goggles permitted)
- swimming 50m sidestroke or lifesaving backstroke (in Lifeguard uniform)
- recovery of an object from the deepest part of the pool (minimum 1.2m in Lifeguard uniform)
- tread water for 5min (in Lifeguard uniform)

## Unit Standard Review

Skills Active has started its regular review of all aquatics qualifications, namely Level 3, Level 4 and the NPLA award and these revised qualification will be lodged on the NZQA framework in 2010. The NPLA Unit Standards will be updated to align with the new NPLA Manual. If you would like to express an interest in being involved in the Unit Standard review please contact Skills Active at [info@skillsactive.org.nz](mailto:info@skillsactive.org.nz). Any changes to qualifications in the future will not invalidate qualifications gained.

## Certificate Level Qualification

The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC), which manages the government's annual investment in the tertiary education system, has stated that they will require all ITO's to offer limited credit programmes (like NPLA) strictly as part of a larger national certificate from 2010. NZRA and Skills Active have agreed to raise this as an issue with TEC in relation to the NPLA award.

Kind regards



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