



APOLA TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Australian Professional Ocean Lifeguard Association Incorporated (APOLA)

APOLA is a non-profit professional association that is recognised as the peak professional association for Australian professional beach inspector ocean lifeguards. It promotes best practice in ocean water safety and beach management. APOLA coordinates professional ocean lifeguard activity in lifeguard training, community education, tourism support, public relations, regulation and risk management in consultation with all levels of government including Councils and their career professional ocean lifeguards.

APOLA Board of Education, Training, Examination and Awards

The APOLA Board of Education, Training, Examination and Awards oversees a comprehensive training and education awards system for professional lifeguards and community groups with highly qualified and experienced trainers and assessors delivering beach water safety education and training programs for pre school, school, adult, senior adult, workplace, aquatic sports coaches, specific needs, school teachers, surf school coaches and professional ocean lifeguards. On this website training is organised in general categories according to the colours blue, green and red:

Ocean Lifeguard Training

Community Training

Emergency Response Training

APOLA Lifeguard Training Academy



Additionally, APOLA, in partnership with **APOLA Lifeguard Training Academy** (a division of the Australian College of Mining Pty Ltd RTO: 110084), provides for professional ocean lifeguards and other aquatic professionals to obtain Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) nationally accredited and approved courses and qualifications such as Certificate III Public Safety (Aquatic Search & Rescue) and Certificate IV Public Safety (Aquatic Search & Rescue)

APOLA Professional Ocean Lifeguard (POL) Award Series

Professional Ocean Lifeguard (POL) Award Levels 1- 4

Development

In 1995 the APOLA Board of Education, Training, Examination and Awards identified POL Award Levels 1- 3 (and as well as Levels 4-5) with Level 1 being the entry level trainee comprising minimum medical and practical skills, Level 2 being the level expected of regular casual and seasonal employees comprising medical and practical skills with substantive work experience, and Level 3 comprising advanced medical and practical skills with additional substantive work experience expected of ocean lifeguards seeking permanent employment.

APOLA POL Levels 1-4 Revisions

With advent and subsequent ongoing revisions of numerous training packages in outdoor recreation, health, public safety and local government, the APOLA POL Level 1-4 awards were mapped against these training packages such that identification of specific units of competency for each of the POL Levels 1-4 matched appropriate content to incorporate advancing standards including common use of once relatively expensive equipment such as portable automatic external defibrillators (AED) and power-craft (jet skis) with rescue sleds.

Incorporation of Certificate III and Certificate IV qualifications

Although the long established APOLA POL Level 1-4 Awards remain as a stand alone and well-accepted 'industry standard' across local government as identified in government publications such as the Department of Local Government *NSW Practice Note No. 15 Water Safety* (a guide to assist Councils to carry out their water safety functions and responsibilities in public places including public swimming pools and beaches), APOLA POL Level 1-4 awards very much reflect content found within the most recent revisions of units of competency found in the public safety, health and local government training packages.

Content (specific units of competency) from these Certificate III and Certificate IV qualifications have been identified as specific 'skill sets' for APOLA POL Levels 1 - 4.

APOLA POL Levels 1-4

As the following indicates specific combinations units of competency ('skill sets') for APOLA POL Levels 1 and Level 2 can be issued as statements of attainment by the registered training organisation with POL Level 3 comprising the specified 'skill sets' providing for the registered training organisation to issue a Certificate III qualification (either Certificate III Public Safety (Aquatic Search and Rescue) or Certificate III in Local Government (comprising units recommended by industry)).

Please note that during an interim period (until all Councils specify minimum requirements in terms of specific sets units of competency or industry/government set a yet to be decided date for compliance), POL Level 1 and POL Level 2 may not always comprise all of the units of competency ('skill sets') specified in that shown below.

Certificate III and IV qualifications as Pre-requisites for POL Levels 3-4

It should be understood that while the Certificate III and Certificate IV qualifications have a strict correlation (are pre-requisites for obtaining POL Level 3 & POL Level 4, during an interim period (until all Councils specify minimum requirements in terms of specific sets units of competency or industry/government set a yet to be decided date for compliance), POL Level 1 and POL 2 may not always comprise all of the units of competency ('skill sets') specified in that shown below

APOLA POL Levels 1-2

However for POL Level 1 and POL 2, during an interim period (until all Councils specify minimum requirements in terms of specific sets units of competency or industry/government set a yet to be decided date for compliance), POL Level 1 and POL 2 may not always comprise all of the units of competency ('skill sets') specified in that shown below.

Notwithstanding the above the APOLA POL Level 1-4 awards can be described in terms of the following and the information below is also available in table form in the document:

APOLA POL Award Levels 1-4 for implementation 2015.pdf

This document can also be printed in the document:

POL Award Levels 1-4 2015.pdf

Professional Ocean Lifeguard (POL) Award Level 1 (POL Level 1)

Note

This entry level (POL Level 1) Award when involving non-adult trainee professional ocean lifeguards (candidates under 18 years of age) particularly requires these ocean lifeguards to function under strict supervision in the workplace.

**Vocational Training from Public Safety Training Package
PUA31312 Certificate III in Public Safety (Aquatic Search and
Rescue)** NB Units of Competency presented as accumulating Skill Sets
(Levels 1-3).

POL Level 1 Skill Set

HLTFA311A **Apply first aid**

HLTFA404C **Apply advanced resuscitation techniques**

PUASAR017A **Undertake advanced surf rescue**

PUACOM001C **Communicate in the workplace***

PUASAR012C **Apply surf awareness and self-rescue skills***

PUASAR013A **Participate in an aquatic rescue operation***

*pre-requisite for PUASAR017A Undertake advanced surf rescue

Other Requirements including prerequisites

Current Motor Vehicle Driver Licence

Current APOLA POL Annual Proficiency Certificate



Professional Ocean Lifeguard (POL) Award Level 2 (POL Level 2)

Note

This level (POL Level 2) is the recommended minimum entry level award for adult professional ocean lifeguards whereby ocean lifeguards are viewed capable of functioning independent of direct supervision as casual and/or seasonal ocean lifeguards.

**Vocational Training from Public Safety Training Package
PUA31312 Certificate III in Public Safety (Aquatic Search and
Rescue)** NB Units of Competency presented as accumulating Skill Sets
(Levels 1-3).

POL Level 1 Skill Set (see above)

POL Level 2 Skill Set

PUAEME004A	Provide emergency care for suspected spinal injury
PUAOPE027A	Undertake beach safety management activities
PUASAR011C	Search as a member of an aquatic search team
PUAOHS002B	Maintain safety at an incident scene
PUAOPE013A	Operate communications systems and equipment

Other Requirements including prerequisites

Current Motor Vehicle Driver Licence

Current APOLA POL Annual Proficiency Certificate

Current APOLA Suspected Spinal Injury Care Award

Current Apply advanced resuscitation techniques and Current Apply first aid

Minimum operational employment experience of 200 hours



Professional Ocean Lifeguard (POL) Award Level 3 (POL Level 3)

Note

This level (POL Level 3) is the recommended minimum entry level award for candidates employed as senior professional ocean lifeguards.

**Vocational Training from Public Safety Training Package
PUA31312 Certificate III in Public Safety (Aquatic Search and
Rescue)** NB Units of Competency presented as accumulating Skill Sets
(Levels 1-3).

POL Level 1 Skill Set (see above)

POL Level 2 Skill Set (see above)

POL Level 3 Skill Set

PUATEA004D Work effectively in a public safety organization

Plus a pair of units from 1 of the following 4 streams:

PWC Driver

PUAEQU001B Prepare, maintain and test response equipment

PUASAR016A Operate and maintain a personal water craft for rescue
operations

Beach Vehicle Driver

PUAEQU001B Prepare, maintain and test response equipment

PUAVEH001B Drive vehicles under operational conditions

Advanced Emergency Care

HLTFA402B Apply Advanced First Aid

PUAEME005A Provide Pain Management

Risk Minimisation

PUAEMR027 Assess operational risk

PUATEA002B Work Autonomously

Other Requirements including prerequisites

Current Motor Vehicle Driver Licence

Current APOLA POL Annual Proficiency Certificate

Current APOLA Suspected Spinal Injury Care Award

Current Apply advanced resuscitation techniques and Current Apply first aid

Minimum operational employment experience of 500 hours

Current PWC Driver Licence*

Current APOLA Lifeguard Powercraft Ocean Rescue Award*

Current APOLA Beach Vehicle Driver Award*

Professional Ocean Lifeguard (POL) Award Level 3 Pathway including Certificate III Local Government qualification

When Certificate III Local Government is attained rather than Certificate III in Public Safety (Aquatic Search and Rescue) the following is required for attainment of Professional Ocean Lifeguard (POL) Award Level 3

Certificate III Local Government

Consistent with applying the rules of unit content for this qualification, units to be completed shall include 5 Core units and 7 Elective units for a total of 12 units of competency. For the Electives, a maximum of 4 Electives may be imported from another training package.

The recommended composition of units appropriate for Council Ocean Lifeguards having already attained the listed pre-requisites (and retained currency for the components recommended by industry), for the qualification Certificate III in Local Government is as follows:

Core LGA Units (5)

LGACORE102B Follow defined OHS policies and procedures
LGACORE104B Work effectively in Local Government
LGACORE105B Work with others in Local Government
LGACOMP008A Apply conflict resolution strategies
LGACOMP009A Implement effective communication techniques

Elective LGA Units (3)

LGAREG304A Apply regulatory powers
LGAREGS303A Enforce legislation to achieve compliance
LGAREGS101B Access learning and career development opportunities

Elective Imported PUA Units (4)

PUASAR017A Undertake advanced surf rescue
PUAOPE027A Undertake beach safety management activities
PUASAR013A Participate in an aquatic rescue operation
PUASAR016A Operate and maintain a personal water craft for rescue operations **OR** PUAVEH001B Drive vehicles under operational conditions

Other Requirements including prerequisites

Current Motor Vehicle Driver Licence
Current APOLA POL Annual Proficiency Certificate
Current APOLA Suspected Spinal Injury Care Award
Current Apply advanced resuscitation techniques and Current Apply first aid
Minimum operational employment experience of 500 hours
Current PWC Driver Licence*/Current APOLA Lifeguard Powercraft
Ocean Rescue Award*/Current APOLA Beach Vehicle Driver Award*

Professional Ocean Lifeguard (POL) Award Level 4 (POL Level 4)

Note

This level (POL Level 4) is the recommended minimum entry level award for candidates employed as supervising senior professional ocean lifeguards, lifeguard coordinators or beach lifeguard service managers.

Vocational Training from Public Safety Training Package – PUA42612 Certificate IV in Public Safety (Aquatic Search and Rescue Management).

Core (5 units of competency)

PUACOM001C	Communicate in the workplace
PUACOM003B	Manage Information
PUAMAN002B	Administer work group resources
PUAOPE015A	Conduct briefings and debriefings
PUATEA003B	Lead, manage and develop teams

Elective (7 units of competency)

PUAOHS002B	Maintain safety at an incident scene
PUAOPE027A	Undertake beach safety management activities
PUASAR011C	Search as a member of an aquatic search team

1 set of 4 units from the following 2 streams:

Risk and Response

PUAEMR027	Assess operational risk
PUAEMR026	Treat operational risk
PUAAMS007B	Coordinate search and rescue operations
PUAOPE012A	Control a Level 1 incident

Community and Administration

PUACOM007B	Liaise with other organisations
PUACOM012B	Liaise with media at a local level
PUACOM005B	Foster a positive organisational image in the community
PUACOM013B	Administer a local public safety group

Other Requirements including prerequisites

Professional Ocean Lifeguard (POL) Award Level 3
Current Motor Vehicle Driver Licence
Current APOLA POL Annual Proficiency Certificate
Current APOLA Suspected Spinal Injury Care Award
Current Apply advanced resuscitation techniques and Current Apply first aid
Minimum operational employment experience of 1000 hours
Current PWC Driver Licence*/APOLA Lifeguard Powercraft Ocean
Rescue Award*/APOLA Beach Vehicle Driver Award*