

Since the WA NOLRS inception in 2003, 260 outdoor leaders have registered in the scheme. WA is well ahead of any other states for numbers registered in NOLRS. The scheme managers have received ongoing feedback from outdoor leaders on the process to become registered. This has provided Outdoor Council of Australia the opportunity to implement scheme changes on this feedback and advice from practitioners in the field.

My aim for today's workshop is for it to be as interactive as possible, so please come along with your questions, personal experience and constructive comments

### **Restricted Guide Registration**

There are a number of outdoor roles that involve repeatedly operating within a well defined set of parameters (generally at a single specific site e.g. High school or gym, indoor climbing wall) on a specified set of outdoor programs. This would include leaders who only conduct climbing or abseiling on one particular artificial surface for which they have received instruction on how to operate that particular facility and how to respond in a emergency at that facility. Both the normal operation and emergency response have been determined and documented by someone with a higher skill level, such as those held by a Single Pitch Climbing Guide (Artificial Surfaces). Similar registration levels exist for guiding bushwalks in one particular area eg on one specific track from campsite or location

### **Stand Alone System**

NOLRS is now a stand alone system not linked to any one training system or package. Vocational Education and Training codes have been removed from all units of competency.

**Partnered Assessment Providers (PAP's)** - Many private enterprises, community based groups and educational institutions already conduct education and training that achieves outcomes at least equivalent to the NOLRS benchmark of knowledge, skills and experience. If that organisation also has adequate quality assurance of their assessment in place it can be recognised as a PAP and leaders assessed by them can be recognised for registration purposes. Organisations seeking to have their assessment process recognised for registration purposes. These organisations must:

- be an organisation (eg, incorporated body, company university, etc);
- have clearly documented assessment processes;
- have documented minimum qualifications/skill requirements for assessors;
- have documented review procedures for assessment; have formal assessment record keeping procedure

PAP's will have the opportunity to put forward their courses/units to align with the benchmark, thereby allowing NOLRS registration during or at the conclusion of the course/program.

This is good news for graduates from these courses, be they tertiary institutions or other non VET training providers such as community organisations. Once assessment has been completed in the appropriate area then registration with NOLRS becomes a formality.

### **Experienced Leader Category**

This classification refers to experienced leaders who can demonstrate six years experience as a leader (or longer) in the area they wish to be registered. Verifiable log book evidence would be suitable for a leader to register in the experienced (E) category at re registration time.

Again this is good news for leaders who are re registering in their chosen field of outdoor leadership. These leaders will have less rigorous re registration requirements and an 'E' on their NOLRS wallet card.

### **Clarification of Currency Requirements**

An experienced outdoor leader entering the scheme will need to demonstrate that they have active involvement in the activity equivalent to the annual re-registration requirements for that activity and level.

A new graduate from a training course will need to show that they have satisfactorily performed under supervision, the role for which they seek registration on at least 6 occasions (min 3 hr sessions) that include a range of clients, locations, seasons or other defining contexts.

### **Bringing You up to Date**

- New Activity areas soon to come under the NOLRS banner include Climbing (Natural Surfaces), On Road Cycle Touring, Mountain Biking and Canyoning
- The requirement to implement and monitor OH&S has been dropped at all registration levels
- Watch out for the calendar of training events coming out in the new year