



Why not volunteer for the ambulance service in your local community

Ambulance Tasmania is always looking for new volunteers in rural communities. If you have some spare time and are looking for something interesting and rewarding to do, why not look into becoming an Ambulance Volunteer?

What do I need to become an Ambulance Volunteer?

You must be at least 18 years of age and hold a current "C" class Driver's Licence. You also need have the physical capacity to perform the required duties, which include lifting and carrying.

You will be asked to complete an application form including your personal details, background and information on your general health and fitness. You will also be asked to authorise a criminal convictions check through Tasmania Police.

If we are recruiting in your community and your application shows you may be suitable, you be invited to attend an interview.

Approval to undertake Ambulance Volunteer responsibilities is at the discretion of Ambulance Tasmania.

What types of volunteers are there?

Ambulance Tasmania has four "levels" for volunteers:

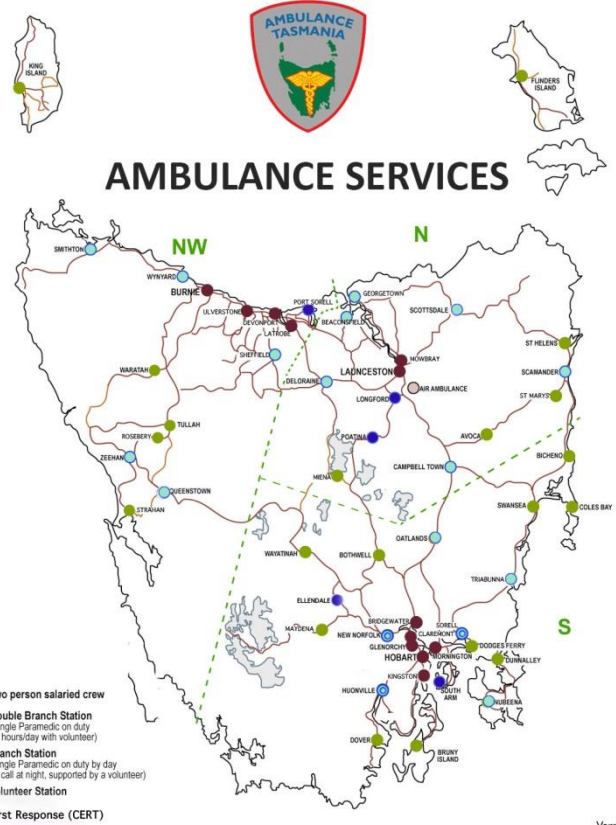
- VAO-1 volunteers support more qualified staff by assisting with scene management, stretcher handling, equipment and driving;
- VAO-2 volunteers are first-responders to medical emergencies who manage scenes and provide basic life support until more qualified crews arrive
- VAO-3 and VAO-4 volunteers provide a broader range of clinical interventions; they treat and monitor patients until backup arrives if required or transport less seriously-ill patients to hospital.

If you just want to assist your local ambulance service without treating patients, you can stay as a non-clinical VAO-1 and just help more senior volunteers and paramedics with scene management, stretcher handling, equipment and driving.

How much time is involved?

This is determined by your employment and family commitments and what type of volunteer role you choose.

- As a **clinical** volunteer (VAO-2, VAO-3 or VAO-4) you will need to be rostered on duty for a minimum of 240 hours, which is the same as 20 hours each month. You will also need to attend at least 10 structured training sessions each year
- If you are a **non-clinical** VAO-1, you will need to be rostered on duty for at least 100 hours each year and attend four compulsory training sessions each year.



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NORTH WEST Regional Office Burnie	NORTH Regional Office Launceston	SOUTH Regional Office & State HQ Hobart
King Island Port Sorell Queenstown* Rosebery Sheffield* Smithton* Strahan Tullah Waratah Wynyard* Zeehan*	Avoca Beaconsfield* Campbell Town* Deloraine* Flinders Island Georgetown* Longford Miena Poatina Scottsdale* St Helens St Marys	Bicheno Bothwell Bruny Island Coles Bay Dodges Ferry Dover Dunalley Ellendale Huonville* Maydena New Norfolk* Nubeena* Oatlands Sorell* South Arm Swansea Triabunna* Wayatinah
* Locations where volunteers work with a salaried paramedic to make a 2-person crew		

Do I need to know first aid?

Prior knowledge of first aid it is not essential. All Ambulance Volunteers undertake advanced first aid training as part of the Volunteer Induction Program*. Clinical volunteers then learn more advanced skills during ongoing training and working on-road with more experienced officers.

* If you are planning to remain in the non-clinical VAO-1 role, because you may occasionally be required to assist with CPR, you are still required to have a current Advanced First Aid qualification.





Who is suitable to be a volunteer?

There is no specific profile to determine your suitability, but certain characteristics, personal skills and physical capabilities are valuable attributes. These include keeping a level head, empathy, ability to communicate, common sense, enthusiasm and a desire to want to help other people.

Can I volunteer from home or work?

It depends to which group you belong. In rural stations, when "on call" you are free to remain at work (with your employer's permission) or enjoy your leisure time, but if your pager is activated you must be able to respond immediately. In stations where volunteers work with paramedics, usually you must attend the station while on duty.

What is involved in the training sessions?

Initial training is offered over three weekends, usually a month or so apart. These sessions are normally held in Hobart, Launceston or Burnie.

After that, most groups train locally once a fortnight. Training sessions are conducted by a volunteer educator or paramedic, with assistance from senior volunteers who are accredited Volunteer Trainers.

Training is a combination of practical, tutorial and e-learning. Informal training sessions are conducted by consensus with fellow volunteers.

A lot of training also occurs while working on-road with more experienced volunteers. Volunteers are also given the opportunity to improve their knowledge by reading recommended publications.

What is a typical call out?

There is no typical scenario. Call outs range from attending motor vehicle or workplace accidents to providing medical assistance to someone who is sick or only has minor injuries. In most cases, patients are transported by ambulance to the nearest hospital or medical centre for further diagnosis and treatment.

What limitations are placed on volunteers when attending a patient?

There are protocols which must be observed. If a patient requires support beyond volunteer care limitations, Paramedic back up must be requested.

What happens if a volunteer is injured on duty?

All volunteers are covered under the Ambulance Tasmania workers compensation policy. Workers compensation benefits may also apply even if you are no longer employed, self-employed or only work casually part-time.

What support do volunteers receive?

As an Ambulance Volunteer you will receive:

- nationally recognised training courses
- uniforms
- pager for contact when on duty
- appropriate vaccinations
- workers compensation & legal indemnity cover
- back-up support from Paramedics when required
- critical incident stress management when required.

What other support is available?

The Volunteer Ambulance Officers Association of Tasmania (VAOAT) actively supports volunteers and holds quarterly meetings as well as an Annual Gathering. The Association also publishes a quarterly newsletter "First Response".

Do volunteers get paid?

No. Ambulance Volunteers are not paid for their services. However, you will be reimbursed for approved out-of-pocket expenses.

Do other states use volunteers?

Most other states in Australia, as well as New Zealand, use volunteers in various front line roles to deliver ambulance services, especially in rural and remote areas.

What are the benefits of becoming a volunteer?

As a volunteer you can:

- make new friends and work as part of a close-knit team
- help provide a vital service to your local community
- meet new people and work as part of a close-knit team
- gain pre-hospital emergency care skills which are nationally recognised
- get a real sense of achievement at meeting new challenges.

