



# Offshore Aeromedical Retrievals Policy

## 1. Background

Offshore aeromedical retrievals in Western Australia present significant challenges to numerous agencies across many levels of government. While St John Ambulance and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services operate two rescue helicopters in the south west of WA, there are no dedicated rotary wing aeromedical assets or personnel outside of their operating ranges.

The deployment of WACHS staff on offshore aeromedical retrievals places an unacceptable risk to staff and patient safety. WACHS has a duty of care under the [Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984](#) (WA) to ensure staff are not placed into a potentially unsafe working environments without adequate training and compatible equipment.

WACHS is currently not resourced to undertake offshore aeromedical retrievals, and WACHS staff members generally lack specialist training in aviation medicine. The deployment of staff members on retrievals may also impact upon the continuity of operations at health facilities.

## 2. Policy Statement

WACHS staff members are prohibited from deploying on offshore aeromedical retrievals.

Any requests for WACHS staff to deploy to offshore locations are to be escalated to the respective Regional Director and/or Regional Executive On Call who will advise the requesting agency of potential alternative options, including referral to the Royal Flying Doctor Service or private aeromedical providers.

## 3. Definitions

<b>Offshore aeromedical retrieval</b>	An evacuation of a person requiring urgent medical treatment from an offshore location
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## 4. Roles and Responsibilities

**Regional Directors, Operations Managers, Regional Directors of Nursing and Regional Medical Directors** are responsible for ensuring staff awareness and compliance with this policy.

**All Staff** are required to comply with this policy and not deploy on offshore aeromedical retrievals.

### 5. Compliance

Compliance with this policy is mandatory. Failure to comply with this policy may constitute a breach of the WA Health Code of Conduct (Code). The Code is part of the [Employment Policy Framework](#) issued pursuant to section 26 of the [Health Services Act 2016](#) (HSA) and is binding on all WACHS staff which for this purpose includes trainees, students, volunteers, researchers, contractors for service (including all visiting health professionals and agency staff) and persons delivering training or education within WACHS.

WACHS staff are reminded that compliance with all policies is mandatory.

### 6. Evaluation

Evaluation of this policy is to be carried out by the Program Manager, Disaster and Emergency Management.

### 7. Standards

[EQuIPNational Standards](#) 15.18.1

### 8. Legislation

[Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984](#) (WA)

### 9. Policy Framework

[Public Health Policy Framework](#)

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