



Media Release

Victoria State Emergency Service

15 April 2021

VICSES: women in rescue showcase their skills



VICSES is hosting a special 'Women in Rescue' event in Torquay this weekend, showcasing the incredible, hands-on skills of our female volunteers.

Our women in orange will be operating numerous key rescue tools, including the 'jaws of life,' on **Saturday, 17 April**. Media are invited to attend a photo and interview opportunity at **130 Messmate Rd, Torquay**. Arrive at **10am** for a 10:15am start.

Recent VICSES data has revealed just one third of our volunteer contingent are women, with the 'Women in Rescue' (WIR) event promoting gender balance in four key ways:

- Building women's confidence in all roles associated with a rescue
- Increasing familiarity with rescue tools through more 'hands on tools' time
- Providing a positive, welcoming and challenging learning environment
- Expanding leadership capacity and networking opportunities of women in emergency services.

The agency's first WIR display took place at the Sunbury unit in Melbourne's north in 2019, and is now an important state-wide event in the emergency services calendar.

For more information, contact:

VICSES State Media Duty Officer
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Quotes attributable to Torquay unit controller Rachel Vella

“Our female first responders at VICSES are incredible, and attend highly complex, challenging incidents. Our Women in Rescue event showcases their life-saving skills, using the latest rescue technology.”

“A lot of people think that only men use heavy-duty tools, drive SES trucks, or cut people out of vehicles – but that isn’t true. We have a growing contingent of women in the south west that tackle all the hands-on duties.”

Quotes attributable to Sunbury unit volunteer Angela Lane

“VICSES volunteers take on a variety of roles, including flood or road crash rescue, operations, and searches for missing people. ‘Women in Rescue’ started because we wanted to show that women are part of all of it, and can use some pretty heavy duty tools”

Our women in orange are capable, resourceful, and highly skilled – and might even save your life one day.”

Quotes attributable to Deputy Chief Officer Alistair Drayton

“It is brilliant to see our female VICSES leaders continue to showcase their skills through the ‘women in rescue’ event. The initiative started in Sunbury three years ago, and has since expanded across Victoria.”

“As an agency, VICSES is committed to being an inclusive organisation. It is critical that we reflect the communities we serve, and build the confidence and leadership among our women in orange.”