



AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF **LIVE STEAMERS**



Limited

ACN 107 882 404 - ABN 81 107 882 404

AALS Web Site: www.aals.asn.au

AUSTRALIAN LIVE STEAMERS SAFETY COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Roger Kershaw 67 March Street ORANGE NSW 2800 Tel: (02) 6362 3029 rckershaw@optusnet.com.au

Secretary:

Alf Grigg 162 Wharparilla Drive ECHUCA VIC 3564 Tel: (03) 5480 1955 aagricon@bigpond.com

08th April, 2008

The Secretary
AALS Member Club as addressed.

Dear Sir/Madam

We write to provide member clubs with general guidelines for managing and resolving operating situations in which clubs have to consider and manage administrative and operating situations involving existing and prospective members with physical and mental disabilities.

Occasionally, member clubs may become aware that an existing member has emerging physical or mental disabilities that potentially limit the member's ability to safely and actively participate in club activities. Loss of mobility or hearing, impairment of sight, and other disabilities can result in a member's being unable to safely undertake many club and hobby activities.

Member clubs may be approached for membership by prospective members with existing physical and mental disabilities.

As loss of mobility and functions covers a wide range of specific issues, each case must be treated individually. There are a range of statutes and regulations governing anti-discrimination and the wellbeing of such persons that must be considered in association with the club's responsibility to ensure public and member health and safety and to comply with club liability insurance policy provisions.

In the event of a member club's being approached for membership by a disabled person, or becoming aware of a member who has lost full capacity, the club will:

- Ascertain exactly what the person wants to do, or can safely and competently do;
- On receipt of the above information, the club shall ascertain the individual's capacity to meet the condition as detailed in the Code of Practice. If the individual cannot meet these conditions, the club shall explore alternatives such as modifications to equipment, provide a second person to assist in specific tasks, or restricted times of activities.

The club shall provide the person with the opportunity to demonstrate his/her ability to meet the capability requirements of the Code of Practice, and seek to accommodate the expectations of individuals where possible without compromising the safety principles as outlined in the Code of Practice.

The club shall notify its insurance provider of its decision. In the case of an AALS group insurance scheme member club, written notification shall be provided to the AALS Secretary.

- The club shall then specify to the individual the conditions under which he/she may undertake an operational activity. Clarity of intent and understanding by all involved is essential.

While we are available to assist in these matters, the member club, in association with its insurer, must ultimately determine the most appropriate action in each case.

Alf Grigg is available at any time on 0428164 890, or an E-mail message sent to aagricon@bigpond.com should you wish to discuss any of the above.

Regards

Roger Kershaw
Chairman
AALSSC

Regards

Alf Grigg
Secretary
AALSSC