

WIRES

RICC FAQ'S

What is the WIRES Rescue and Immediate Care Course?

The Rescue and Immediate Care Course is a comprehensive course that trains members of the public who would like to become involved with wildlife rescue to assist injured, sick and orphaned wildlife. Individuals who have successfully completed this training become full WIRES members and can rescue and provide basic, immediate care for animals requiring assistance.

Differentially to the Rescue 101 training, individuals who complete the RICC and become a full WIRES member receive additional benefits such as hands-on face-to-face training, a 150 page manual containing essential rescue and immediate care information, support from local branch members and the ability to complete further species training to become a specialist rescuer or carer.

Who is the Rescue and Immediate Care Course designed for?

The Rescue and Immediate Care Course is suitable for NSW residents within WIRES operating boundaries who would like to assist with wildlife rescues. This course is more comprehensive than the Rescue 101 pathway, allowing you to attend rescues for a greater variety of species and provide immediate care.

The RICC is aimed at members of the public who:

- Are aged 18 years or older and are based within NSW
- Want to gain experience and confidence with hands-on training
- Want to connect directly with other local branch members for support, advice and guidance;
- Are interested in going on to become a carer;
- Do not have a license or car and/or are looking to become involved beyond wildlife rescue and care, including with fundraising and events

What does the RICC training entail?

The Rescue and Immediate Care Course is comprehensive and covers species identification, safe handling and examination, wildlife first aid, WHS considerations and immediate care requirements for a range of different species.

The course format is blended, consisting of an online theory component and a workshop component. The online theory takes approximately 6-8 hours to complete. Upon completion of the theory, the workshop component can generally be completed within 8-10 hours and is currently available online or as a face-to-face workshop. Students can choose either method, or are welcome to complete both.

Species that WIRES members can rescue following the training include lizards, turtles, frogs, possums, birds, large mammals, gliders and raptors. No member is authorised to assist with snake, bat or monitor rescues, or provide long term care, without having completed further specialist training.

What does the \$125 course fee cover?

The course fee is set at \$125 in order to cover access to the online training material, access to a face-to-face workshop (if you do so wish to attend one throughout your training), the first year of membership, insurance as a volunteer involved in handling wildlife, a 150 page WIRES manual and access to the rescue alert app.

Who coordinates WIRES Members?

WIRES members report directly to their local species coordinators and the WIRES Rescue Office regarding all active rescues. They are largely managed by the WIRES Membership team and supported directly by their local coordinators and branch members.

How do WIRES members receive rescue alerts?

All WIRES volunteers, including WIRES members, receive alerts through a platform called xMatters. WIRES members receive notifications for rescues as per your preferences and training. Your local branch will also receive alerts for these rescues as normal. WIRES members have a window to accept a rescue before xMatters escalates the alert to the broader volunteer base. This ensures that we are giving the animal the best chance at a suitable and experienced rescuer in the first instance while increasing the chances of rescues with minimal delays.

Do WIRES members pay an annual membership fee?

Yes, there is an annual membership fee for WIRES members of \$40 including GST.

Do WIRES members receive any equipment after completion of this course?

WIRES members can order a complementary WIRES safety vest upon completion of this course. The hi-vis vest provides the minimum PPE required to keep you safe during rescues.

Are WIRES members obliged to accept a rescue when a rescue notification is received?

No. All WIRES volunteers, including members, have the option to decide whether to accept rescues at their discretion. In most cases, the rescue alert will be distributed to various members in the local area to try and increase the acceptance rate and achieve the best possible outcome for the animal.

However, when you do accept a rescue, we encourage that you take responsibility for the rescue of that animal. Upon accepting a rescue, the WRO will provide you with all the details they have captured from the caller already, but they will rely on you to go back onto the call sheet after the rescue and update any missing or incorrect details such as the exact location, outcome or species information.

What happens when a WIRES member travels outside of NSW or moves interstate?

If you are travelling outside of NSW but will remain a NSW resident and would like to remain on our system, you can request for rescue notifications to be turned off temporarily in your absence. To do this, the WIRES Membership Team will require your details and the length of time you will be unavailable for. Members have the option to be reinstated as active at any time, provided your annual membership and training remains valid.

If you move interstate, unfortunately your WIRES membership will become invalid. Each State and Territory have their own licensing requirements and regulations associated with the rescue and care of native wildlife, so you will be subject to the laws and regulations of the state in which you reside.