

AMBULANCE PARAMEDIC



www.apcollege.edu.au



What exactly is an Ambulance Paramedic?

An Ambulance Paramedic is highly skilled individual who provides life-saving emergency medical care, treatment and specialised transport for patients outside of the hospital environment.

They're the ones who drive around in those bright coloured ambulances and wear the cool looking overalls...you know the ones; they're the people we admire so much because they save lives and are always dependable.

We think you'll agree, one of the reasons to become an Ambulance Paramedic is because you're passionate about helping others and feel a sense of wanting to give back to your community.

For the most part, Paramedics are first-contact health care specialists, providing front line out-of-hospital care, medical retrieval and health related transport for sick and injured people in an emergency and non-emergency setting. They accurately assess and document a patients' health and medical needs to determine and implement appropriate paramedical care on site.



Who employs Ambulance Paramedics?

The following information may seem a well-known fact, yet there are many people who don't understand who employs Ambulance Paramedics.

For the most part, each state government's Health/Community Department is responsible for providing a public Ambulance Service; delivering essential services to hospitals, clinics, retirement homes, aged care facilities, mental health organisations and doctors surgeries.

Some states such as Western Australia and the Northern Territory contract St John Ambulance Service to deliver out-of-hospital, emergency, non-emergency care and related transport services within their operational jurisdictions.

Personal reasons to become a paramedic

"I want a challenging but successful career"

"My Father had a stroke last year and its opened my eyes and made me what to help other people"

"I have the passion to help people and save people's lives"

"I always wanted to build my skills ever since I started in St. John ambulance cadets"

You can clearly see you're not alone in how you feel about becoming a Paramedic

Ok...let's get started.



A State Ambulance Paramedic's skill and competency centre around their clinical knowledge and scope of practice.

After speaking with a lot of Paramedics, the most frequently practiced skill in their daily activity is the art of communication. If you're a great communicator yourself and understand the intrinsic value of emotional intelligence, both in the workforce and in your personal life – you already possess the foundation skill set of a great Paramedic.

As such, Paramedics communicate very well in unpredictable situations and circumstances. They can effortlessly normalise with their patients, independent of their social standing, regardless of their ethnicity, cultural and religious beliefs.

Every day, an Ambulance Paramedic at work (or even off-duty), never knows what will happen next; and to be honest, for the most part - that's what makes the job so enjoyable.

Be prepared

Ambulance Paramedics are well-prepared to handle any emergency. They have a calm disposition because they received the essential training, guidance and support. Paramedics are also acutely aware of their environment and possess a heightened sense of their surroundings, factoring in safety of their patient(s) and themselves.

The initial contact a Paramedic has with a patient can set the tone for what happens next, so you can be sure every Paramedic is well-versed in the key aspects of managing the scene of an emergency, vehicle accident, rescue or other related traumatic event.

Paramedics collaborate with other emergency services personnel such as doctors, nurses, police, fire crews and social services employees. Teamwork is an important component of the job.



Primary patient care is the number one priority for Paramedics, in most situations. State Ambulance Paramedics are often called 'angels' because of their kindness and high-levels of empathetic patient care.



Key skills

- A caring and empathetic nature and highly developed communications skills
- The capacity to remain calm, think clearly and act quickly in stressful situations
- Team work, collaboration and self-reliance
- Adaptability and resilience
- The ability to follow instructions and guidelines
- A good level of health and physical fitness

Key tasks

- Drive ambulances to sites of medical emergencies and accidents that may require the administration of advanced life support
- Lift and place patients on stretchers, load the stretchers into ambulances and transport patients to hospital
- Assess and treat patients at the site and on the way to hospital
- Administer pain-relieving drugs and replace fluids, often by inserting tubes into veins
- Prepare patient care records and other written reports on the state of patients' injuries and the treatment provided



How to become an Ambulance Paramedic

In late 2018, the paramedic profession became regulated. This came about because of a need to improve patient care and public confidence in the pre-hospital emergency health care sector.

Legislation was introduced to protect the use of the word 'paramedic' and 'paramedicine'; which can only to be used by those who have;

1. Completed a recognised [Bachelor of Paramedic Science degree](#).
2. Have met the requirements (experience and/or qualifications) deemed appropriate by the newly-formed Paramedicine Board of Australia; with registration through the Australian [Health Practitioner Regulation Agency](#) (AHPRA).



Pathways to a career as an Ambulance Paramedic

1. Nationally Recognised Diploma – then a degree

If you've got your heart set on becoming a registered Ambulance Paramedic but missed out on going to university, you could consider the [HLT51015 – Diploma of Paramedical Science](#) as an intermediate-level introduction to paramedical concepts.

Although the Diploma is not enough to become a registered Paramedic, it does allow students to gain the essential paramedical qualifications and as well as getting clinical experience along the way.

Many graduates of the Australian Paramedical College have successfully gone on to university to study a paramedic science degree. You'll find [most universities in Australia will award degree credits](#) when the Diploma of Paramedical Science has been completed. Of course, [each university has their own requirements](#), so it's best to make your own enquiries before making a decision.

We can also send you the complete course outline and training standards as found on www.training.gov.au. This is an amazing resource to allow you understand more about the course, why you need this knowledge and how to apply it in your job as a Paramedic.

2. Bachelor of Paramedic Science degree

If your academic achievements are good enough, or your work experience and current qualifications match university entry criteria, you can apply to study the Bachelor of Paramedic Science degree.

Typically, a degree can take up to three years to complete when studying full-time. Degree's can be funded by way of a student loan via HECS.

Read about how completing a Diploma of Paramedical Science can [save almost a year off a Paramedic Science degree](#).



After completing the Bachelor, graduates will be able to;

- Demonstrate a sound underpinning knowledge of anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology and pharmacology to a level required for effective diagnosis of patient conditions and rationalisation of treatments.
- Demonstrate competence at patient care, through effective patient assessment, diagnoses, treatment and evaluation of care provided.
- Direct an emergency health care team in a complex operation through effective leadership and communication.
- Apply principles of safe work practices in the environment of out of hospital care.
- Integrate paramedic practice within the broader context of health care with an appreciation of other health care professional roles and the policy and politics of health care systems.
- Analyze the sociological, psychological, legal and ethical of aspects of paramedic practice within the wider context of holistic health care provision.
- Synthesize effective oral presentation skills and professional writing through a proficient use of literature, data bases and practice guidelines.
- Discuss the obligation for development of the profession and self through lifelong learning, acquisition of new knowledge and reflective practice.
- Identify the link between evidence-based practice and clinical practice guidelines used in Australia and internationally.
- Discuss the variations in paramedic practice across Australia and the World.
- Identify specific health care issues of indigenous people and outline strategies for effective delivery of care for indigenous people.

For more information on this pathway read our simple overview of [what's involved in getting a Bachelor's degree here](#).



Applying for jobs with a State Ambulance Service

Once you've got the degree, you're prepared to enter the workforce.

This is a good place to mention as with most careers, State Ambulance Service jobs can be highly competitive, that's why you need to ensure you tick all of the eligibility requirements and have developed your soft skills (Emotional Intelligence).

Yes, qualifications are indeed essential, although having well-developed people and communication skills will improve your job chances dramatically.

Ambulance Paramedic application criteria includes;

- The right to work in Australia (Citizen, Resident, Visa)
- You have a bachelor's degree in the field of paramedic science from an Australian or New Zealand tertiary institution
- You have a manual driver's licence

Application criteria

You may be required to perform or meet the following;

- Performance and Integrity Validation
- Medical Assessment
- Psychometric Assessment
- Interview
- Clinical Assessment
- English Language Testing
- Criminal history check
- Traffic History Report
- Health Related Fitness Assessment

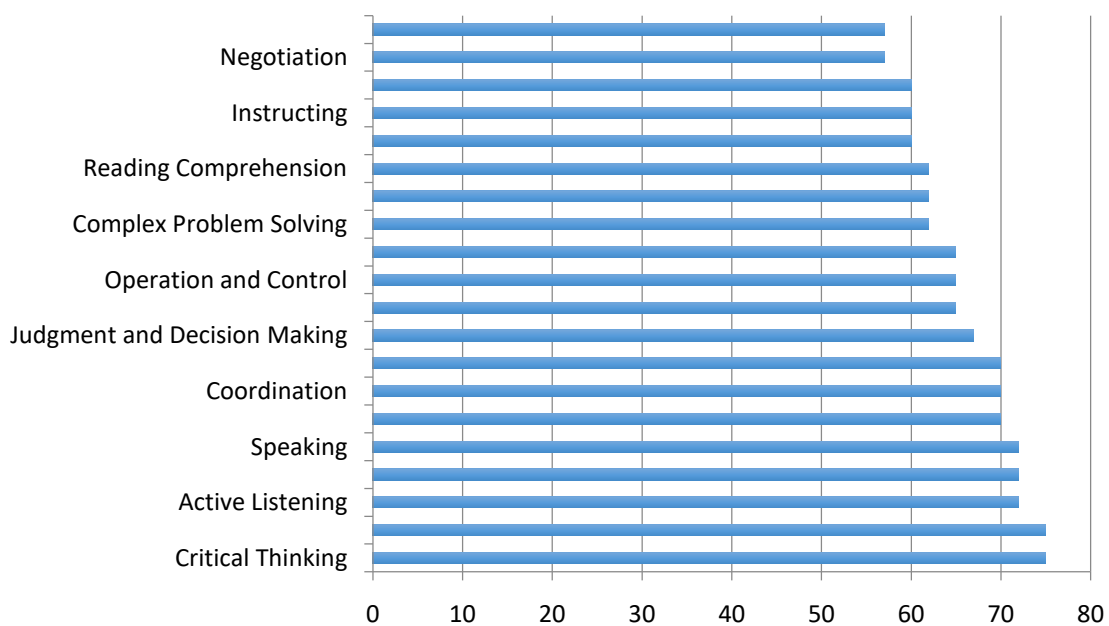
Links to State Ambulance Services can be found at the end of this eBook.





Essential paramedic skills

The following skills are vital to ensuring a successful career as a Paramedic. These skills help promote career progression and professional development.



Paramedic job prospects

Looking forward, employment for Ambulance Officers and Paramedics in Australia is expected to grow strongly.

Government funding for paramedical services is increasing. As population growth in Australia, rises, the pressure to improve response times, levels of services in pre-hospital emergency health care sector increases.

Media Release – Queensland Ambulance Service

[200 more Paramedic for Queensland - \\$885 million funding approved](#)



Jobs

State Ambulance Services typically recruit in waves, so it's good to register for alerts on your local state service website, as well as follow Ambulance Services on social media.

Head over to our paramedic [jobs board](#) where we share jobs for (Paramedics and ESO's) and [Patient Transport Officers](#), Basic Life Support Medics, First Responders, Emergency Services Officers in the mines. These types of occupations do not require a degree because the area of operation is [within the private sector](#).

In addition to this there are many online jobs boards showcasing opportunities for Paramedics.

The most obvious one is SEEK, and then there is Indeed.com, Jora, Adzuna, MyCareer and many other smaller ones.



Paramedic salary

According to government sources, the average weekly earnings for a qualified Paramedic is around \$1,379, compared to the nation average of \$1,200.

This figure will obviously increase with additional qualifications, role, overtime and promotions into higher levels of management or paramedic practice.

Hours of duty

The average hours worked per week for a Paramedic in Australia is 42.3. Permanent full-time Paramedics will typically work a normal roster on a rotating 10-12 hour shift system.

Of course, each Ambulance Service has its own rostering structure. As you'd be aware, the on-road life of a Paramedic is unpredictable and extended periods of work can be common.

This is part of the job and one of the reasons you put your hand up to become a member of this amazing profession. When it comes to saving a life or knocking off early to go to a footy game – we know which one you'd choose.

Paramedic career progression

There are many opportunities for qualified and registered paramedics who wish to progress their career beyond that of an Ambulance Paramedic.

Rank progression within each State Ambulance Service typically looks like this;

- Paramedic
- Advanced Care Paramedic
- Intensive Care Paramedic
- Officer in Charge, Station Officer
- Operations Supervisor
- Director of Operations /Executive Manager Operations

As a Paramedic you can also pursue roles such as;

- Flight Paramedic / Air Ambulance
- Search and Rescue Paramedic
- Cardiovascular Paramedic
- Acute Stroke Advisor
- Clinical Instructor
- Wilderness Response Paramedic
- Aquatic Paramedic
- Clinical Support Officer



State Ambulance Service contacts

We've done all the work for you – how good is that?

Queensland Ambulance Service

General: [Visit the website](#) | 13 QGOV (13 74 68) | [Send an online enquiry](#)

Recruitment: [Recruitment Page](#) | [Send an email](#)

Ambulance Service of New South Wales

General: [Visit the website](#) | (02) 9320 7777 | [Send an email](#)

Recruitment: [Recruitment Page](#) | (02) 9320 7378 | [Send an email](#)

Ambulance Victoria

General: [Visit the website](#) | 03 9840 3500 | [Send an online enquiry](#)

Recruitment: 03 9840 3653 | [Recruitment Page](#)

Ambulance Tasmania

General: [Visit the website](#) | 1300 135 513 | [Send an online enquiry](#)

Recruitment: 1300 303 196 | [Send an email](#) | [Recruitment Page](#)

South Australia Ambulance Service

General: [Visit the website](#) | 1300 13 62 72 | [Send an email](#)

Recruitment: 1800 655 306 | [Send an email](#) | [Recruitment Page](#)

ACT Ambulance Service

General: [Visit the website](#) | (02) 6207 9980 | [Send an email](#)

Recruitment: [Recruitment Page](#) | (02) 6205 0388 | [Send an email](#)

St Johns Ambulance Northern Territory

General: [Visit the website](#) | 1300 ST JOHN | [Send an online enquiry](#)

Recruitment: [Send an email](#) | (08) 8922 6200 | [Recruitment Page](#)

St Johns Ambulance Western Australia

General: [Visit the website](#) | (08) 9334 1222 | [Send an email](#)

Recruitment: 1800 086 751 | [Send an email](#) | [Recruitment Page](#)

Find out more!



We believe everyone should be given a chance to follow their dreams and become an Ambulance Paramedic.

Regardless of your current educational achievements, we encourage you to contact the college. [Apply to study at the college.](#)

There are other APC eBooks available on how to learn paramedical science online, become an entry-level First Responder, Basic Life Support Medic, mining Emergency Services Officer etc.

We have assisted hundreds of people to gain the paramedical qualifications employers are looking for.

Graduates have gone on to become a registered paramedic, some are working as Medics in the private sector; and those for a taste of adventure and variety are working in [London as a registered UK Paramedic.](#)

Call **(07) 5520 2522** and speak with a paramedic course coordinator, 8.30am-5pm AEST weekdays.

Or go to www.apcollege.edu.au to chat with one of our team about how to get started.

We wish you the very best for your future career.

APC Team.