



## VAOAT Statement of Inclusion and Equality

The Volunteer Ambulance Officers Association of Tasmania recognises that Tasmania is part of a vibrant and multicultural country and that Volunteer Ambulance Officers are representative of that diversity.

We are home to the world's oldest continuous culture and acknowledge the Traditional Custodians throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

The VAOAT acknowledges the challenging work that Volunteer Ambulance Officers undertake must be within the boundaries of Workplace, Health and Safety and operational requirements that Ambulance Tasmania are obligated to adhere to and that the VAOAT will support Ambulance Tasmania in matters related to such compliance.

For active volunteers, the VAOAT adopts the World Health Organisation statement *“to guarantee that human rights are exercised without discrimination of any kind based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status such as disability, age, marital and family status, sexual orientation and gender identify, health status, place of residence, economic and social situation”*. The VAOAT will continually and proactively seek opportunities to ensure inclusion and equality underpin the role that it undertakes to represent volunteers.

The VAOAT upholds the rights of Volunteer Ambulance Officers to work in a healthy and safe environment, to be engaged in accordance with equal opportunity and anti-discrimination legislation, to receive all information that is required to perform their role, to be provided with sufficient training to undertake their clearly defined roles and to be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses.

The VAOAT believes that by celebrating the diversity of Volunteer Ambulance Officers and members of the Tasmanian community, we help overcome stereotypes, build cultural awareness, discourage racism and prejudice and encourage unity.

Our focus is on ensuring that every volunteer is afforded the same opportunity to be included in our VAOAT community.

