

WIRES (RICC) RESCUE AND IMMEDIATE CARE COURSE

Information Pack



Course Description

The WIRES Rescue and Immediate Care Course (RICC) is the introductory training pathway to become a WIRES branch volunteer. The course provides individuals with the skills and knowledge to assist with the rescue, transportation and immediate care of injured, sick and orphaned Australian native wildlife species.

Individuals who complete the RICC are authorised to assist with the rescue, transportation, and immediate care (up to 24 hours) of birds, small mammals, lizards, turtles, frogs, raptors and large mammals.

There are 7 online theory modules in this course, followed by a practical workshop component. The course contains essential information regarding wildlife rescue, transport and immediate care requirements including:

- Work, Health & Safety Considerations
- Species Identification
- Common Rescue Scenarios
- Safe Handling Techniques
- Wildlife First Aid
- Understanding Pain
- Transport Requirements for Wildlife
- Assessing Injuries, Examination and Immediate Care Requirements

Please note that rescues for specialist or high-risk species such as snakes, monitors and bats require species-specific training following completion of the RICC. Individuals who complete the RICC are **not authorised** for these species. Specialist species training is also required for individuals who wish to assist with the care or rehabilitation of wildlife and is only available following completion of the RICC.

Entry Requirements

There are no educational prerequisites for this course however individuals must meet the enrolment criterion as below to be eligible for this training:

- Participants must be at least 18 years old.
- Participants must live in an area in NSW where WIRES is licensed to rescue and care for wildlife.
- Participants must **not** be a current member of another licensed wildlife organisation or hold an individual license to rescue or care for wildlife.



The following criterion is also strongly recommended for this tier of volunteering:

- A reasonable level of fitness
- Due to the nature of wildlife rescuing, emotional resilience is advantageous
- A valid driver's license and access to private transport in order to attend rescues

Delivery Method

The Rescue and Immediate Care Course (RICC) has two consecutive components.

1. Online Theory
2. Practical Workshop



The online theory component consists of 7 modules, interspersed with short quizzes to test your knowledge after each module. Every module of the online theory must be completed before the practical component can be accessed.

Students can then progress to the workshop component of the course. The workshop component can be completed in one of two ways:

- a) **As a 1-day face-to-face workshop** at any of the workshop locations in NSW.
- b) **Via the online workshop alternative** (by application only).

Students are expected to attend the 1-day face-to-face workshop where possible but may apply for the online workshop alternative if they meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the course. For more information regarding face-to-face workshops, please see the section below.

Alternatively, the online workshop component consists of three workshop sessions, each with a series of assignments. Each assignment must receive a pass mark (graded by the WIRES Training Team) in order to progress through the training and be processed as a WIRES volunteer.

Upon successful completion of both components of the training, students can expect to be processed by the WIRES Volunteer Support team within approximately 2-3 weeks from the date of training completion. Individuals are processed as WIRES volunteers and will become part of their local WIRES branch and be given access to further specialist courses.



Face-to-face Workshops

Enrolled students of the RICC can register for a face-to-face workshop on completion of the online theory component. Face-to-face workshops are hosted in various locations throughout NSW each year and are listed online at <https://www.wires.org.au/get-involved/wires-training/rescue-and-immediate-care-course/ricc-workshop-schedule>. Please note that workshops are held by region, not suburb, and some travel may be required.

Workshop registrations must be completed online (as outlined in the online course) and close at 4pm the Friday prior to the scheduled workshop. There is the opportunity to add yourself to a waitlist where a workshop is already full. For concerns with registering, please contact the WIRES training team via email at training@wires.org.au.

Support personnel or animals may be considered; however, this must be arranged in consultation with the WIRES Training Team prior to attendance at any workshop.

Pets, animals, children or unregistered persons are **not permitted** to attend the RICC workshops. Unauthorised personnel will not be permitted into the venue.

Venue accessibility varies depending on workshop locations. Please direct any concerns or queries regarding venue accessibility to the WIRES Training Team in advance of scheduled workshops via email at training@wires.org.au or phone on (02) 8977 3392.

Course Duration

The estimated duration of the online theory of the course is 6-8 hours. However, participants are encouraged to work through the training at their own pace, therefore the completion time for this course may vary depending on individual circumstances.

The face-to-face practical workshop option is approximately one full weekend day (6-8 hours). Those who apply to finalise their training via the online workshop instead are advised to allow approximately 10-12 hours.

All components must be complete within the enrolment period.

Enrolment Duration

The enrolment duration for this course is 12 months. Participants are required to complete all components of this course within this time. Extensions may be granted upon request for extenuating circumstances at the discretion of the WIRES Training Team.

Course Access Requirements

Participants are required to have access to a reliable internet source and device in order to complete the online theory component and enrol in a workshop. The online training portal is best suited to computer devices however it can also be completed on a phone or tablet.



If a participant does not have their own internet access, many public libraries provide this service. To find your local public library, please visit <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/public-library-services/about-public-library-services/find-public-library-nsw> or call the NSW Public Library Services on (02) 9273 1414.

An 'offline' alternative is available for this course via hardcopy manual and workbook. Students can request to complete the course via hardcopy workbook and face-to-face workshop where access to the internet is limited or restricted. Please contact training@wires.org.au or call (02) 8977 3392 to discuss this option where required.

Course Outcomes

Individuals who successfully complete the WIRES Rescue and Immediate Care Course (RICC) are processed as a WIRES volunteer and become part of their local WIRES branch.

WIRES RICC-trained volunteers are authorised to assist with rescue callouts for almost all common native Australian wildlife except those requiring specialist species training.

Course Fee Information

The full cost of the WIRES Rescue and Immediate Care Course is \$100.00. This course fee includes the first year's membership (including insurance during WIRES activities) and a free WIRES safety vest received once the individual is processed. A concession rate of \$80 is available to eligible concession card holders, students and seniors who can provide proof of eligibility on enrolment. Any person requiring a refund must do so in writing in accordance with the refund policy specified below.

Refund Policy

- WIRES reserve the right not to grant a refund once a participant has commenced any component of this course.
- The WIRES refund policy is applicable during the enrolment period for the course (12 months). Refund requests made after the enrolment period has concluded will not be considered.
- Participants that request to cancel their enrolment prior to commencing the course and still within the enrolment period may be eligible for a partial refund. Refund requests are assessed on an individual basis and will incur an administration fee of 20% of the course fees paid (\$25).
- WIRES may need to cancel, postpone or reschedule workshops when necessary due to low registration numbers, COVID-19 or extraordinary circumstances. If this occurs, the participant will be offered the option to book into an alternate workshop within their enrolment period. If there are no suitable alternative workshops available within the



enrolment period, the participant must contact the WIRES Training Team to discuss alternative options.

All refund requests must be in writing and be in accordance with the refund policy specified above. Written requests can be sent via email training@wires.org.au or post to WIRES Training Team [PO Box 7276, Warringah Mall NSW 2100]. Alternatively, you can call (02) 8977 3392 to discuss your options with the WIRES Training Team.

Extension Requests

Requests for enrolment extensions may be considered up until 8 months after the enrolment period ends. Requests can be sent to training@wires.org.au for consideration or call (02) 8977 3392 to discuss your options with a member of the training team.

Reasonable Adjustment

Reasonable adjustments can be arranged to support students to complete this course. Please contact training@wires.org.au if you think reasonable adjustments may be required in your circumstances to discuss further.

Student Support

The WIRES Training Team are available from Monday – Friday. We endeavour to respond to all enquiries as soon as possible within 24-48 hours. To contact the team, please email training@wires.org.au or call (02) 8977 3392.

