



TE MAHI AKO



POOL LIFEGUARD GATEWAY PROGRAMME

Empowering youth to launch their future

Pool lifeguards are the heroes of the Aotearoa aquatics sector. Observant, patient, and good with people, they have the confidence to act when help is needed.

For secondary school students, it can be a fun and flexible job and a great entry point to an exciting and rewarding career in the aquatics or recreation industry.

Pool Lifeguard Practising Certificate

Our Pool Lifeguard Gateway programme offers ākonga | learners the opportunity to learn valuable health and safety and leadership skills, and is a great introduction to the workplace. Ākonga will also earn credits towards NCEA.

Supported by Te Mahi Ako in partnership with secondary schools and local aquatic facilities, the Pool Lifeguard Gateway programme equips ākonga with both theory and practical learning that they can apply to their career pathway.

Prerequisites – Ākonga must:

- hold a current first aid certificate comprising of NZQA Unit Standards 6400, 6401 and 6402 or be booked to complete this before starting the programme
- be water confident and able to competently swim 200 metres in under 6 minutes
- be aged 16 years or older.

Resources

Ākonga will be given a hard copy workbook to complete their Pool Lifeguard Skills Award assessment and to log their Pool Lifeguard Practising Certificate hours. They will also have access to an online training manual and checkpoint questions to test themselves.

Student registration

Schools are required to complete a registration form for ākonga participating in the Pool Lifeguard programme. An annually signed Memorandum of Understanding is also required.

Forms can be found at www.temahiako.org.nz/workplaces/forms/

Cost

The fee for the programme is \$500* per ākonga per year.

This covers resources, assessment, reporting of credits and Te Mahi Ako's support services for the school and ākonga, from sign up to completion. *Excludes GST and is valid for 2025



Programme overview

The Pool Lifeguard Gateway programme has two parts: the Pool Lifeguard Skills Award and the Pool Lifeguard Practising Certificate.

Pool Lifeguard Skills Award

An ākonga completing this assessment will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the lifeguard role, its responsibilities and pool supervision. They will also demonstrate that they can respond to a range of emergencies in an aquatic environment.

This assessment includes a swim test and other practical elements.

Unit Standard	Title	Level	Credits
30123	Recognise and respond to simulated emergencies and apply rescue techniques as a pool lifeguard in an aquatic facility	3	10

Pool Lifeguard Practising Certificate

This assessment includes ākonga working poolside for a minimum of 20 hours, carrying out a range of lifeguard duties under supervision.

Unit Standard	Title	Level	Credits
30124	Supervise customers and maintain safety as a pool lifeguard in an aquatic facility (v2)	3	5
29848	Demonstrate knowledge of safe work procedures and practices in a recreation workplace (v2)	3	5

Get in touch with us to get started.

www.temahiako.org.nz

info@temahiako.org.nz

0508 475 455

Te Mahi Ako supports individuals to develop themselves through real-life learning within businesses, iwi and communities.