



Courier Mail
01-Oct-2011
Page: 4
Careers
Market: Brisbane
Circulation: 195490
Type: Capital City Daily
Size: 111.28 sq.cms
Frequency: MTWTFS-

First aid should not be put last



QUEENSLANDERS are being urged to sign up for one of the most important skills sought by employers – first-aid training.

In Switzerland, residents must pass a first-aid course before they can apply for a driver's licence.

But in Queensland, only 0.02 per cent of adults have a current first aid certificate, according to Queensland First Aid.

“It tells an employer that you’ve done your homework; you’re prepared,” says Queensland First Aid managing director Garry Draper.

He says most jobseekers leave the first aid course to the last minute and Queensland First Aid has streamlined its study plan to deliver the program in seven hours, with same-day certification.

“Basically everyone from flight attendants to firefighters needs a first-aid qualification,” Draper says.

“Nursing and other allied health professional occupations, emergency service occupations, fire and rescue, police and the like, childcare workers, aged-care workers, disability support workers, teachers all need them. Obviously construction and mining industries and trade-based professions need them too.”

The basic course required by most employers is the Apply First Aid certificate (HLTFA301C) which replaces the Senior First Aid certificate.

Once attained, the CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) component of training must be updated annually, and the full certificate needs renewing every three years.