

Diving medicals

Dear Editor,

I am concerned to hear from divemasters and instructors returning from Queensland, principally having worked in the Cairns region, who report seeing dive medicals signed off for student divers as having been done to the AS4005.1 by registered medical practitioners on our Diving Doctor list. These medicals are all done in less than 15 minutes. Students get only a peak expiratory air-flow test instead of formal spirometry, and tuning-fork hearing tests instead of a formal baseline audiogram as per the Australian Standard. In other words, the proper standard investigations are not being done. Sharpened Romberg score tests are reportedly not being done either.

If these practices are occurring, they make a mockery of all the good work done by SPUMS and having a unified Australian Standard for the past 12 years. These types of medicals are now starting to occur in Victoria, with a doctor doing the “medicals” at the back of the dive shop.

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Key words

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