



## MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 21 March 2024

### ALL PASSENGERS SAFE AND WELL AFTER SMOKING BOAT INCIDENT

This morning shortly after departure from Queenscliff our skipper noticed smoke coming from the engine room. Following the vessels emergency procedures, which are set out in our safety management system, our skipper evacuated clients from the vessel as a precautionary measure to ensure client safety. After moving passengers to the nearby car ferry the skipper was able to dissipate the smoke, restart the engine and drive the vessel back into the berth under its own power.

After speaking with CFA and water police who inspected the vessel at the dock it was reported that they did not see evidence of a fire on board, instead alluding to the smoke possibly being caused from smoking oil from the engine overheating.

All students and staff are in good health and there were no reported injuries throughout the incident. We thank our staff for following our policies, procedures and training as set out in our safety management system. We fully support adopting a precautionary approach to all matters that relate to client safety.

We formally wish to thank Searoad Ferries, Parks Victoria, Victorian Water Police, CFA and the Queenscliff Coast Guard for their amazing efforts today, supporting us throughout the incident. The whole Queenscliff maritime community does such an incredible job, and it was so warming to see everyone come to our aid in such a timely and professional manner in our moment of need.

We will be conducting a thorough mechanical and electrical assessment of the vessel once it has been cleared by AMSA. Any smoke on a vessel is alarming and we are so thankful that it was a minor incident, and our team conducted themselves in such a professional manner, ensuring our clients safety. -ends-

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