



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Lifeguards and Beach Attendants included in ongoing Front Line Awareness Training on Disability Language and Etiquette**

The Ministry of Equality has delivered front line staff training on general disability awareness and disability language and etiquette for lifeguards and attendants who will be employed by the Department of the Environment in all public beaches and at the GSLA Bathing Pavilion (including the accessible pool) during the summer season.

The training was carried out over 3 sessions last week. A total of 76 individuals have undergone the training; 3 members of the Department of the Environment, 12 beach attendants, 19 bathing pavilion attendants and 42 lifeguards.

This training, which focuses on teaching staff how to better deal with and address with people with disabilities, will complement the excellent training already received by lifeguards and attendants in relation to their responsibilities and will enhance the experience of using the facilities already available to people with disabilities at our public bathing areas.

The training was delivered by Jason Belilo from the Ministry of Equality. Jason was certified as a trainer by UK Charity *Attitude is Everything* last year and has already previously delivered this training in the public sector.

Minister for the Environment Dr John Cortes and Minister for Equality Samantha Sacramento addressed the trainees and handed out their certificates.

Minister Samantha Sacramento MP said: "This in-house training we are offering is a very important tool in raising general disability awareness within the services that Government provides. Seeing that this Government has invested significantly in making our beaches more accessible, it was only natural to include lifeguards and attendants in our ongoing training programme to ensure that we provide the best service possible. This is another step towards making our community more inclusive of people with disabilities."

Minister Dr John Cortes MP said: "The training of lifeguards in these areas is vital, and necessary to ensure they perform their duties to the highest standards. These young people are an important part of our summer months and will ensure that enjoyment of our beaches is totally inclusive. They have greatly enjoyed this training".