

Strategic Priority 5

Volunteers in Scouting – developing new approaches to broaden the base of adult support



The World Organization of the Scout Movement



Accreditation of adult training by the Australian government

The Results

The Australian government, through the relevant state training agencies, has accredited the Woodbadge training for adults in Scouts Australia. Other advanced training programmes for Leaders have also received this accreditation. This was achieved by working with the state training agencies and mapping Scout competencies against existing relevant industrial competencies.



Scout leaders participating in group discussions during a training course

The outcomes are:-

- parts of Scout training are recognised by employers,
- people can have the training they receive in Scouting accredited to their work,
- other volunteer groups have approached Scouts Australia to access components of their training programme,
- Scout trainers are in demand by other organisations to deliver this training,
- Scouts Australia is now registered as a recognised training authority in operation in each of the six states and two territories of Australia.

The Reasons

- To give adults in Scouting recognition for the training and skills they have developed.
- To have Scout training recognised within the wider community and industry.

- To enable our volunteer leaders to use their Scout training skills and experiences to assist them in their employment and further skills development.
- To recruit other skilled members of the community and have a process whereby their previously acquired skills can be recognised within Scouting.
- To promote the importance of lifelong learning to all adults in Scouting and young people.
- To have all Scout training recognised and valued within the community, commencing with the Venturer Scout level and progressing through all facets of adults in Scouting.

The Methods

Scouts Australia became a registered training authority and fulfilled all the legislated requirements to enable the Association to run approved training courses for adults. We then registered the existing Scout content of our training in the Certificate course, comparing the content against existing government endorsed frameworks. All trainers and instructors were then registered. Scouts Australia then conformed to the existing requirements set by the government, which also conform to the standards set by the World Adult Resources Committee.



Australia: The Scout Association of Australia

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Our Learning

A great deal was learned along the way in attempting to conform to the government standards. The documentation we were required to develop helped the various team members to develop their own understanding as they questioned practices and shared good ideas. Scouts Australia also interacted with other youth organisations and formed allegiances with other significant stakeholders. Overall the standards set by Scouts Australia were actually higher than that legislated for by the government for specific activities.

Our Future Plans

Scouts Australia is continuing to have all its programs registered so youth members and adults will not only earn an award in Scouting but will also have their efforts recognised in the wider community. This starts at Venturer Scouts (age 14) and above. The training institution of Scouts Australia will be delivering a registered Certificate and Diploma Course which satisfies both Scouting and government requirements. Youth members who participate in Scouting could achieve Certificate 2 in Youth Development by the time they finish their schooling. This could lead to Scout training programs in leadership, management, youth development and adventurous activities being delivered and recognised in Scouting and also requested by the wider non-Scouting community.

For further information, please contact Peter Blatch, National Commissioner Adult Support, Scouts Australia. scouts@scouts.com.au



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