

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Australia



National Policy

Policy Topic	ROLE & AUTHORITY OF THE NATIONAL AWARD AUTHORITY AUTHORITY TO OPERATE
Policy Number	1.1
Date issued	
Source of Authority	Trust Deed, Constitution, ACC Minutes, Award Handbook
Dates	
Review Date	March 2005

Purpose of the Policy:

This policy identifies the authority of the Australian National Award Authority (NAA) to operate the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Australia and the role of the Authority in ensuring that the Award Program is made available to the maximum number of young Australians as is possible.

This policy should be read together with the Trust Deed and the Constitution.

Preamble:

- (1) A Board of Trustees internationally controls the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The Award Program is administered on behalf of the Trustees by the International Award Association, currently based in London.
- (2) The Board of Trustees has delegated responsibility for the Program and authority for its operation in Australia (through a licence dated 6 November 2000) to the Australian Co-ordinating Council. The trust deed dated the 18th January, 1961, as amended, established the initial authority.
- (3) The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Australia, a company limited by guarantee is licensed by the International Award Association as the National Award Authority in Australia..

Policy:

- (1) The National Award Authority (NAA) in Australia has accepted to maintain the essential structure, basic conditions and philosophy of the Program as set out by the Board of Trustees. Together with all other National Award Authorities, the NAA will ensure the uniformity of the Program is met via the following four conditions:
 - a. The voluntary nature of participation by young people.

- b. The age range of participants from 14 to 25.
 - c. The structure of the Award Program, ie. the four mandatory sections and its three levels of Award.
 - d. The minimum time requirement laid down for the completion of each Award.
- (2) The NAA recognises it has the authority to change the title under which the Program operates provided that the essential philosophy and structure remain unchanged.
- (3) The NAA
- a. Shall license State Award Authorities (Divisions) to operate the Award Program in each State and Territory.
 - b. May license a company, Government body or incorporated association trading across two or more States as a National Operator.
 - c. Shall encourage committees, organisations and individuals to take an active interest and responsibility in the development of young people through the implementation of the Award Program.
 - d. (also refer to Company policy 1.3 - " State Award Committees" and policy 1.8 - "National Registered Operators")
- (4) State and Territory Licence Holders are required to continue to satisfy the Company that:
- a. They understand the full implications of the Program;
 - b. Are in a position to safeguard the aims and standards; and
 - c. Have the necessary administrative framework to enable the Program to function and to ensure its continuity.
- (5) A key role of the NAA is to set policy for the National Award Office, the State Award Committees and for National Licensed Operators. The NAA's policies will recognise and assist the high level of "operating autonomy" given to the State Award Committees.
- (6) The Company will set policies, and if required, standards, at the operating levels of the Award in Australia in the categories of service, adventurous journeys, skills, physical recreation and residential.
- (7) The role and authority delegated by the NAA to the State Award Committees may differ from State to State.
- (8) The NAA recognises that the Licensed Operator is the pivotal Operating Level for the responsibility for the operation of the Awards. Each Divisional Award Office has the responsibility to support the Licensed Operators in all facets of the Award.
- (9) The NAA is to be consulted on all major issues affecting all States.