



**OUTWARD BOUND**  
Inspiring Australians

## Information for parents or guardians of students undertaking an Outward Bound program

### What is Outward Bound?

Outward Bound Australia is the national leader in providing personal development and outdoor education programs in Australia. We have been operating since 1956 and are part of an international association of Outward Bound schools in over 30 countries around the world. Our programs are created around our mission to provide challenging experiences to help individuals discover, develop and achieve their full potential. Through our co-founder, Kurt Hahn, we are associated with Round Square, United World College and the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

### Why is the Outward Bound educational process so impactful?

Most of what we learn, we learn through experience; the remainder comes from social interaction and formal learning. At Outward Bound we enable students to learn through experience rather than structured lessons. Most of the experiences on program – the reactions to students' actions – are real and immediate. This linking of action and consequence, together with facilitated reflection on experiences, are critical elements in the Outward Bound learning process.

Programs are designed to draw out and use personal and group abilities to overcome the challenges encountered in living together, expeditioning through the bush and undertaking outdoor challenges. The outdoor environment is Outward Bound's classroom. It provides a 'place apart' where the students' normal support structures are absent physically and psychologically. Each program includes a variety of adventure activities such as expeditioning, rock climbing, abseiling and rafting which are the vehicle for participants to get to know the strengths, limitations and potential of themselves, their peers - and their teacher!

### How does Outward Bound make being outdoors safe?

Our instructors hold Certificate IV or III in Outdoor Recreation (equivalent or higher) and have the qualifications, competency, currency and experience for the activities they deliver, in addition to a Leaders Wilderness First Aid qualification, rescue qualifications, and current working with children check relevant to the state or territory in which the program is operating.

Our instructors are thoroughly trained in our Safe Operating Procedures, based on Adventure Activity Standards relevant to the state or territory in which the program is delivered, overlaid by nearly 60 years' experience and data. We maintain an effective framework, policies and procedures for reporting and managing even the most minor incidents.

Audits are conducted annually, with every second audit conducted by Outward Bound International to ensure our standards are the best in the world.

Every group carries a 2-way satellite messaging device and/or radio and we monitor an internal emergency on-call phone 24/7. Groups are in regular contact with the school representative and program coordinator at the Outward Bound 'base' for weather updates and general communications.

As a rule, we discourage communication between parents and students on program; however your school's Outward Bound program coordinator can get an emergency message to anyone out in the field at any time.

### More questions?

Speak to your school's Outward Bound program coordinator or refer to our Frequently Asked Questions at <http://www.outwardbound.org.au/faqs>