



## NATIONAL TEAM REPORT APRIL 2015

The adoption of the new GGA Strategic Plan means a focus on our foundations of great people, good governance and commitment to evolve.

Building upon our commitment to evolve, Girl Guides Australia held a Risk Review Workshop in Sydney to review GGA's risk appetite, key risk categories, risk assessment matrix and risk approval policy. This workshop was premised upon the work done to date by the national Risk Management Committee as part of a continuous improvement process and to align the organisation with the new GGA Strategic Plan. The focus of the workshop was on empowering leaders on the ground to make decisions about what our girls need and to be responsive to the community needs. The new approach will not be about seeking permission but delegating decision making to the local level in a way that is supported by a strong framework.

Guiding is justifiably proud of our history of carrying out our mission in a way that ensures a safe environment for our girls and volunteers. In empowering our girls and young women to grow into confident, self-respecting, responsible community members, we are developing resilience and judgment capacity in our girls, which occurs through controlled exposure to risks, difficulties and choices.

We were also very proud of the work done by the great young women in Guiding across Australia in the creation of a statement entitled *Empowering Girls and Women – Empowering Humanity*, which has been approved by the GGA Board. Created ahead of Beijing +20 and the 59<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women, this statement provides a platform for Guiding to support the development of initiatives and conversations focused upon girls and women.

The empowerment and engagement of young women is being affirmed and encouraged through the work of the National Olave Program Committee in the project "Olave Program Ignite". This is the implementation phase of the Olave Program Review and will improve the Olave Program to create more opportunities and support for young women aged 18-30 in Guiding.

On the topic of good governance, we wish to extend our sincere thanks to all who have engaged with the Policy and Procedures Review, which is ready to present its Interim Recommendations. In line with the clear expectations of Guiding, the Policy and Procedures Review will be working to create concise, consistent and easily accessible policy and procedures across Australia. While this work is being done, Guidelines will continue to be the go-to place for practical information and procedures for Guiding.

Finally, we were very excited to see all the great photos being shared of Guides participating in Clean Up Australia Day activities across Australia. We know that our Guides are very aware of the importance of our environment, and there are many opportunities within Guiding that enable girls to take positive steps to make a real difference to their environment.

Robinette, Miranda and Susan