



GIRL GUIDES
AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Saturday 8 September 2018

MEDIA STATEMENT

**Rosemary Derwin Acting Chief Commissioner
Girl Guides Australia
- Diversity & Inclusion Policy -**

For over 110 years, Girls Guides has empowered girls and young women to grow into confident, self-respecting, responsible community members. This has been achieved with a commitment to diversity and inclusion for all our members.

The leadership group of *Guiding in Australia* includes trained volunteer managers and leaders with many years of experience. These dedicated volunteers put the safety and well-being of our Guides at the forefront of everything they do.

The Girl Guides Australia (GGA) Diversity and Inclusion Policy aligns with state and federal anti-discrimination and equal opportunity law and includes as 'girls and women' persons who identify as, and live in the community, as females.

This policy signals the commitment of Australian Guiding to diversity and inclusion that benefits the Australian community.

Time and again, research has shown that vulnerable children need support. In 2017, the Trans Pathway survey which measures the mental health of trans young people found that trans young people are also 10 times more likely to suffer from serious depression and anxiety than other young Australians.

Guiding in Australia offers an environment where young people can be supported and encouraged to believe in themselves. The Australian Guide Program offers a non-formal educational program that is dynamic and flexible while offering values-based training in life skills, decision making and leadership.

GGA is committed to providing a respectful, open and safe environment where:

- All people are treated equitably and with mutual respect regardless of their background, ethnicity, culture, language, beliefs, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, socio-economic status, level of ability, additional needs, family structure or lifestyle; and
- Inclusive practices actively support diversity and counteract bias and prejudice.

With regard to today's media stories GGA wishes to clarify that:

- Girl Guides provide a child safe environments for all camps and events;
- There is always strict and ongoing supervision of the sleeping arrangements and bathroom arrangements at Girl Guide camps and events;
- All bathrooms have individual cubicles for toilets and showers; everyone showers and uses facilities separately and has their privacy protected; and
- Guide Leaders are always present to supervise as per safety requirements.

- ENDS -

Media enquiries contact: Sofia Dedes, Will & Word Communications: 0400 512 618 sofia@willword.com.au