

# INTRODUCTION TO THE AWARD

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is an international, non-competitive, flexible program for all young people, whatever their background or ability. The Award expands personal horizons and explores potential talents and interests. The Award is run in 126 countries around the world and so far over 6 million young people have completed their Award.

The Award is for young people aged 14-25 and comprises of three levels, Bronze, Silver and Gold. For all levels the participant must fulfil the requirements in each of the four sections:

- Physical Recreation
  - Skill Development
  - Community Service
  - Adventurous Journey
- (Plus an extra 'Residential' component for Gold participants)

Activities in the four sections are intended to provide a balanced program reflecting different aspects of a young person's development.

Participants choose their own activities for each of the sections and work to improve their knowledge, skills and performance.

The Award is a personal challenge and not a competition against others. Each participant's program is tailor-made to reflect the individual's abilities and interests.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is widely recognised by employers and education providers. Benefits to young people include developing self-confidence and self-reliance; gaining a sense of achievement and responsibility; discovering new skills; interests and talents and development leadership skills. They can also discover exciting opportunities; make new friends; experience teamwork; problem solving and decision-making; increase their motivation; enhance their self-esteem and develop their communication skills. They will also, of course, have fun!

There are many ways to get involved in the Award, feel free to contact the State Award Office to find out how.

The Award provides young people with amazing opportunities, perfectly summarised by Kurt Hahn, co-founder of the Award:

***"We are all better than we know. If only we can be brought to realise this, we may never again be prepared to settle for anything less".***

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For further information call 1300 4 DUKES or visit [www.theaward.com.au](http://www.theaward.com.au)