

The Duke of Edinburgh's
International Award

ANNUAL REPORT



AUSTRALIA

2025

Report from the Chair

Our mission is to enable increasing numbers of young Australians to use The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Framework to understand their potential. We strive to ensure that young Australians are aware of how their non-formal education can be internationally recognised. We work incredibly hard to provide access to this Framework for young Australians, regardless of their circumstance.

We celebrated strong results with increases in registrations, completions, more schools and organisations joining as Duke of Ed Centres, as well as a surge in interest from sectors committed to unlocking youth potential. Partnerships with employers, universities, sporting bodies and charitable organisations have deepened, ensuring richer pathways can be applied to the Duke of Ed experience.

Our engagement with State and Territory Education Ministers and Departmental leaders has enabled government investment in pilot projects in both New South Wales and Queensland, reinforcing our role as the leader in non-formal education and learning accreditation in Australia. We also greatly appreciate the ongoing support of the Commonwealth Government, which ensures youth with more challenging circumstances have ready access to the Duke of Ed.

Following the signing of a National Licence Agreement, Australian Navy and Army join Air Force Cadets in offering the Duke of Ed Framework across Australia.

With the help of our partners across the country, we expect User numbers to increase by upwards of 25% each year for the next five years. To this end, we have taken major steps including laying the groundwork for universal access to the Duke of Ed Framework within schools. Through a new pilot program and improved processes, we're preparing to include more than 300 Centres where every Year 9 student will use the Duke of Ed Framework to manage and accredit their non-formal education journey. This signals a profound shift into embedded educational practice. The Duke of Ed Framework is a powerful tool for young Australians to become world ready.

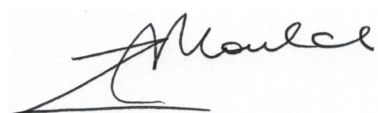
Micro-credentialling each Duke of Ed Level (Bronze, Silver and Gold) using 'Credly Digital Badges' has proven to be extraordinarily positive. Young people now carry a verified digital record of their achievements to share with future employers, tertiary institutions and community leaders.

Our research partnership with Western Sydney University has affirmed the unique value of the Duke of Ed Framework in developing competencies that matter most in contemporary education and employment. Among other things, the research confirmed that stronger academic confidence, personal agency, leadership, emotional regulation, time management and social connection resulted from using the Duke of Ed Framework.

The Duke of Ed's international reach under the Australian licence was extended this year, with the successful launch of the Duke of Ed in Timor-Leste as well as forthcoming developments in Papua New Guinea. Together with our commitment in the Solomon Islands, these new developments show our deep commitment to youth development in our region.

Many people have served young Australians undertaking the Duke of Ed over the past six decades, but none more so than these distinguished Australians: The Hon Sir Eric Neal AC CVO, The Hon John Pascoe AC CVO, and The Hon Larry Anthony AO. This year we honoured each of them as Life Patrons of the Award in Australia. On behalf of many, my heartfelt thanks to each of them.

To our young people: your determination, commitment and curiosity inspire us. To our volunteers, Duke of Ed Leaders, Partners, Ambassadors, my fellow Directors nationally and in every State and Territory, CEO Peter Kaye AM ESM and staff: thank you for your unwavering belief in the power of the Duke of Ed to influence the lives of so many.



Tom Mould AO

Chair, The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award – Australia



The Duke of Ed Impact in Numbers



34,728

New Registered Users



Female
58%



Male
42%



736

Active Duke of Ed Centres

29

Long
Service Medals

1 Gold

6 Silver

Distinguished
Service Medals



320,000

Hours of Volunteering

(based on estimated 10 Volunteer
hours per completion and 4 Volunteer
hours per non-completion)



Approx.

62,500

Adult Volunteers

(based on estimated 1.8
Volunteers per Registered User)

Registered Users:

- *96% would recommend the Duke of Ed to others
- *65% are planning to continue to the next Level
- *Duke of Ed Users outperform others in Years 7–10 English and Maths
- *Higher scores for Duke of Ed Users in:
 - Self-determination & personal agency
 - Leadership
 - Emotional regulation
 - Academic confidence
 - Extracurricular engagement

*2024 IAF Participant Satisfaction Survey
*A comparative study of NSW public school students using and not using the Duke of Ed Framework: Academic results and attitudes

Key Achievements

Meeting Market Demand

This year we witnessed a sharp rise in demand driven by universities, employers and educators alike for reliable, recognised frameworks to accredit non-formal education and learning. In response, as demand hits record levels, the Duke of Ed Framework has become a critical tool for schools looking to support life-readiness beyond the classroom. We have seen record growth in Year 9 and 10 uptake, increasing recognition of the Framework in selection criteria, and heightened engagement from education departments. The value of the Framework is no longer seen solely in personal development terms. It is now widely acknowledged as a competitive asset in academic and employment pathways.

Launching Duke of Ed Digital Credentials

A major milestone this year was the official launch of Duke of Ed digital credentialing, delivered via our partnership with Credly. For the first time, Bronze, Silver and Gold Level achievers can now receive secure, shareable digital badges that validate their accomplishments across professional and academic platforms. This initiative was not only a digital evolution, it marked a philosophical shift in how we support our Registered Users beyond the experience itself.

Pricing and Licencing Changes

To prepare for the increasing uptake of Whole of Year and Whole of School delivery, along with growing demand for national delivery partners, we completed market testing of a refreshed pricing and licensing registration model. Schools involved in early stage pilots have already benefitted from reduced per-student fees and expanded support. These changes will enable the Duke of Ed to remain both sustainable

and equitable as it expands its reach to a growing number of new Registered Users each year. Our aim is to ensure cost is never a barrier to access, particularly for schools working with disadvantaged communities.

Looking to the Future

FY25 marked the beginning of our transition toward a “whole of school” future supported by deliberate investments in systems, training and product evolution. One of the most significant developments is the upcoming launch of our new Bronze Level. This streamlined and much improved model enables all Year 9 or 10 students to begin their Duke of Ed journey at once, with greater flexibility and enhanced support tailored for scale.

Major upgrades to the Online Record Book (ORB) functionality now allow for bulk onboarding, automated approvals, and delegated assessor functions which are all critical for embedding the Framework into the rhythm of school life.

The progressive rollout of our updated Leader Accreditation features a simplified four-tier certification model and will be integrated with digital credentials in the near future.

These upgrades are part of our broader strategy to reduce friction, elevate quality and ensure consistency in how the Framework is delivered across Australia.

Looking ahead, we will continue to deepen our partnerships with education jurisdictions to ensure every young person, regardless of postcode, has the opportunity to benefit from the Framework. Our mission remains clear: to position the Duke of Ed as a foundational element of holistic, future-ready non-formal education across Australia.

Major Supporters

National Board Directors

Tom Mould AO (Chair), Cameron Smart (Deputy Chair), Nicholas Mole (Secretary & Treasurer), Lynne Foley OAM (retired Nov '24), The Hon Joseph Francis (until Nov '24), Stephen Hauville, Amanda Lampe, Kirin Lindop, The Hon Daryl Manzie AM, John McMath (from 15 Nov '24), Robert Rutherford, David Sanders, Phillip Schultz (from May '25).

The Friends of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Australia

The Hon Larry Anthony AO (Chair until Sep '24), The Hon Shane L Stone AC KC (Chair from Oct '24), Andrew Murray AM (Deputy Chair until Sep '24), Cameron Smart (Treasurer until Nov '24), The Hon Sandra Nori (Secretary until Sep '24), Nicholas Mole (Secretary & Treasurer since Nov '24), Angus Wilson, Charlotte Buchanan (retired Nov '24), David Sanders (retired Nov '24), Nigel Stewart, Peter McConnell, Tom Mould AO (retired Sep '24), Wendy Brown.

National Award Office Team

Peter Kaye AM ESM (CEO), Joanne Bush, Michelle Chen, Kirsty Cleary, Hayley Day, Sumari Dippenaar, Tania Etuale, Bailey Grozdanovski, Mason Harrop, Jessica Lunniss, Cathy McInerney, Kerrie Otto de Grancy and Kelly Wood.

The NAO also manages operations for South Australia, Australian Capital Territory, Tasmania and Victoria.

Gold Fellows

Joanna Collins AM, George Crouch, Robert Gerard AO.

Silver Fellows

Peter Benson AM, Alun Legge, Tony Lennon, The Hon Sir Eric Neal AC CVO, The Hon John Pascoe AC CVO, Warren Randall, John Robinson AO, Imelda Roche AO, William Schoch.

Award Ambassadors

Award Ambassadors have increased from 158 to 164. For the full list of Australian Award Ambassadors, please visit dukeofed.com.au/supporting-us/ambassadors.

Former National Chairs

Sir Adrian Curlewis CVO CBE, Edward Booth, Major General John Broadbent OBE DSO, Sir Robert Crichton-Brown KCMG CBE TD, The Hon Sir Eric Neal AC CVO, Sir Nicholas Shehadie AC OBE KStJ, The Hon John Pascoe AC CVO, Allan Sherlock OBE OAM, The Hon Larry Anthony, The Hon Shane L Stone AC KC, Michael Crouch AC (chair elect), The Hon Gary Nairn AO.

Major Sponsors and Donors

Peter Howarth OAM
The James Family Foundation
Clive Palmer
Nigel Stewart
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Financial Summary

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

Consolidated net assets as at 30 June 2025 were **\$11,212,481**. The Directors consider that the Group is in a robust financial position to manage present commitments and to continue to invest in our Strategic Plan.

Consolidated Pre-Audited Financial Results

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award – Australia recorded a profit of \$368,428 for FY25 compared to a profit of \$31,284 in the previous financial year.

The Friends of the Award recorded a surplus of \$4,414,147 for the year, compared to \$763,555 in the previous financial year. This follows the recognition of significant one-off donations, including to the Founder's 100 fund.

The consolidated surplus for the year was \$4,782,574.

	FY25 Unaudited Amounts
Revenue	
Registration fees	\$3,287,549
Donations	\$3,414,222
Grant income	\$1,372,049
Investment income	\$1,624,820
Other income	\$485,630
Sale of inventory	\$114,808
Total Revenue	\$10,299,078
Expenditure	
Employee benefit expense	-\$2,605,519
Special projects	-\$456,873
Grant expenses	-\$1,021,095
IT expenses	-\$333,018
Professional fees	-\$164,669
Travel expenses	-\$182,054
Insurance expenses	-\$52,558
Marketing and communication expenses	-\$14,838
Office and other expenses	-\$516,006
Cost of goods sold	-\$92,983
Depreciation and amortisation	-\$76,890
Total Expenditure	-\$5,516,504
Profit / loss for the period	\$4,782,574

In kind services were also provided by Gadens, CA ANZ, PwC, KPMG, Support Xpress and our panel of Honorary advisors, for which amounts have not been recognised in the Annual Report.

All Board Directors are honorary and accordingly do not receive any compensation.