



# Defence Youth Program Fact Sheet

## Australian Army Cadets

### Program Summary

The Australian Army Cadets (AAC) is a leading national youth organisation with the character and values of the Australian Army, founded on a strong community partnership, fostering and supporting an on-going interest in the Australian Army. The AAC program comprises approximately 16000 youth, led by over 1000 volunteer adults, and supported by approximately 200 serving Army members and Defence staff across Australia.

The AAC provides opportunities for young people from the ages of 12 (if they turn 13 in the calendar year in which they join) to 19yrs 11 months to develop Courage, Initiative, Teamwork and Respect. The exciting AAC program allows youth to undertake activities such as abseiling, watermanship, navigation, radio communications, survival and bush skills, first aid and many other challenging activities.

The AAC is embarking on a transformation path that will soon see other innovative subjects taught and practiced in the field, including robotics, advanced communications, cyber-skills, and engineering.

Army Cadets undertake a number of training events each year, including field camps and military skills courses. The best cadets get opportunities to test themselves in a national adventure training activity, or compete against other State and Territory teams in the Regimental Sergeant Major – Army's Drill Competition or the Chief of Army's Combined Team Challenge. Aspects of the AAC program also contribute to qualifying for the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

A strength of the AAC is its diversity, inclusiveness and its community spirit.

**Detailed program information is available at:**

**Public Website:** <https://www.armycadets.gov.au/>

**CadetNet:** [Department of Defence CadetNet](#)

