**Key Position Statement**

Girl Guides Australia is the peak organisation for girls and young women. Girl Guides across Australia has been enabling girls and young women to become confident, self-respecting, responsible community members. We provide girls with opportunities to grow, learn and have fun in ways that are relevant to girls and young women. We provide a foundation for girls and young women to be the best that they can be and harness their individual potential and make a difference. We foster personal character based on our values of respect and collaboration to draw out leadership qualities.

**Full Position Statement**

Girl Guides Australia is building on our 100 year tradition of helping develop a brighter and better world around us...

Girl Guides Australia is the peak organisation for girls and young women. Girl Guides across Australia empowers girls and young women to become con dent, self-respecting, responsible community members. We provide girls with opportunities to grow, learn and have fun though non-formal learning based on a unique set of values. Through learning our girls and young women have a foundation to discover the best that they can be and harness their individual potential to make a difference. We provide a safe space for girls and young women to develop life skills and character, to develop their own leadership style and instill a desire to take action on issues they care about and contribute to the communities around them.

As a founding member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) we are member of a world-wide movement of some 10 million members in 145 countries that provide non-formal education, for girls and young women to develop leadership and life skills through self-development, challenge and adventure. We encourage teamwork, help girls to grow in confidence and inspire girls as young as ve to speak up and be heard. Our focus is on empowering girls and young women and we encourage all girls and young women to reach their potential, whatever their ability or background. Our dedicated volunteers Australia-wide make Guiding happen and inspire girls and young women to be their best in a non-competitive environment. We provide leadership training and support for our volunteers to gain new skills, which are transferable to other areas of life.

**Our core characteristics are:**

* **Empowerment—**Building capacity and capability of girls and women by providing choices and skills to make a difference. Supporting girls and young women to achieve by building self-confidence and providing leadership opportunities. Celebrating success of girls and young women by supporting girls to realise their potential, whatever that journey is. Opening the door to friendships and building memories that will last a lifetime.
* **Daring—**Giving girls and young women a sense of adventure, new pathways and experiences to develop leadership skills for the future. Challenging girls to make a difference, encouraging them to take new opportunities and developing new skills for their future. Challenging communities on the expectations of girls and young women and to see a better future for girls and young women.
* **Fun—**with friends, to ensure a confident positive future ahead of them.
* **Learning—** Learning through doing, learning through play, learning with each other, learning by sharing and learning by leading. Mentoring girls and giving them the skills to tackle life head on and express who they truly are. We encourage and challenge each and every girl individually to do their best.
* **Active—**when taking action we are informed, collaborative and engaged with our community and the world around us!
* **Connecting with Community—**Girl Guides are part of a bigger family, a global friendship, a worldwide movement. We contribute to our community through service. We value relationships to build understanding of others, to extend our knowledge of the world, to communicate on matters important to our cause and to provide opportunities for our members to grow.
* **Evolving—**Girl Guides are committed to change and to adapt to the world around them. Making sure that we are alive to the emerging needs of girls and young women is vital to our future.
* **Making the world a better place—**Girl Guides want to contribute to the world around them to improve it for their friends, their family and community, whether at home or abroad. Girl Guides are alive to the issues of our times and want to have a say in their future.

**Our values**

Underpinning these characteristics are our values:

* **Integrity—**we deliver on what we say we can do and will be honest and transparent in our communication.
* **Empowerment—**we challenge girls and young women to realise their potential and make a difference in their world.
* **Collaboration—**we co-operate and share to make the world (at home and abroad) a better place.
* **Respect—**we value diversity of communities and recognise that all have good intentions.
* **Passion—**we are proud, enthusiastic and believe in our organisation. We see answers not  problems**.**
* **Initiative—**we create new ideas and are responsible for these becoming a reality.

**Voice and Personality**

**Our personality and voice is defined by what we bring into people’s lives which includes:**

* fun
* friendships and a support network
* adventure
* experiencing things that you otherwise may not—discover
* community, togetherness and a family—a sense of belonging
* a sense of achievement
* a space for girls and women to build their confidence and identity in a safe environment
* skills and learning

**What we champion:**

* a strong set of ethics, community values and behaviours
* learning and development through discovery
* a world view
* empowering girls and young women
* making a difference to the lives of girls and young women across the world
* diversity and difference
* choice
* having faith in young people to lead by providing opportunities for leadership
* the individual making a difference in the community
* girls and women building their identity

**What we are against:**

* putting girls and women in boxes. We know that girls and women need to have choice
* social expectations that constrain and limit the growth of girls and women—girls and women need to set and develop their own destiny
* conformity and limitations being placed on girls and women
* self-doubt
* apathy
* inequality
* injustice

**We are different to others because we:**

* are for girls and young women—we are girl led.
* provide non-formal education and let girls find their own way in a safe environment.
* provide a range of opportunities—international, outdoors, indoors—to let girls and young women find their own unique pathways. We recognise that every girl’s journey is different.

**Our Members feel:**

* a sense of belonging.
* empowered to discover what is possible.
* safe and secure to be who they want to be and to push boundaries.
* appreciated for who they are and the journey that they are taking.
* worthy and self-confident.
* proud of their organisation.
* belief in what is possible for themselves
* able to make a difference.