



Australian Defence Force Cadets Strategic Intent



Statement from the Chief of Defence Force



General Angus J. Campbell
AO, DSC

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) has a long and proud history of supporting ADF cadets. They represent the next generation of Australians. By supporting the cadet programs, Defence seeks to further connect with the community we serve, and engender an interest in and positive disposition towards Defence.

The Service (Navy, Army and Air Force) cadet organisations operate in partnership with communities to deliver youth development programs focused on youth empowerment. The programs are inclusive, non-discriminatory, and open to young people from 13 to 18 years of age of all abilities, provided their needs do not compromise the safety of any participants.

There are almost 30,000 cadets currently enrolled in the three cadet programs in more than 500 ADF cadet units across all states and territories. Over 4,500 adult volunteers including officers of cadets, instructors of cadets, and 'approved helpers' supervise and support the cadets.

Statement from the Patron of the ADF Cadets



**General the Honourable
Sir Peter Cosgrove**
AK, AC (Mil), CVO, MC
(Retd)

As Patron of the ADF Cadets, it is a privilege to be involved in what is a unique program that allows us to foster the next generation of community leaders. The ADF cadet programs aim to inspire young people within a safe environment to come together to learn new life skills, make new friends and reach their full potential.

I'm honoured to once again put on a uniform to support our young people through activities that help them thrive and become responsible members of their local community.



Vision

Defence's vision for the ADF cadet programs is to contribute to the community by providing youth with inclusive and fulfilling development opportunities consistent with Defence values, enhance an inter-generational connection between the Australian Defence Force and the community that we serve, and facilitate and promote an interest in Defence careers.



Values

The program is underpinned by Defence values, which reflect community expectations and engender an interest in and positive disposition towards Defence.

Service

Service to each other and the community underpins everything in the ADF cadet programs.

Courage

Courage is essential for developing resilience and creating and maintaining a safe culture for youth.

Respect

Respect is central to treating others with dignity, building trust, and providing a safe environment.

Integrity

Integrity sets a foundation for moral and ethical strength in doing the right thing.

Excellence

Excellence is the pursuit of safe and positive opportunities and experiences, both individually and as an organisation.

Critical enablers



Information technology

ICT, including the CadetNet platform, underpins the administration and management of safe ADF cadet programs.



People

Key to the ADF cadet programs is attracting and retaining suitable adult volunteer staff and supporting quality development for all participants.



Infrastructure

Safe and fit for purpose facilities are fundamental to the overall functioning of the ADF cadet programs.

Principles and objectives

Safety and wellbeing

The Defence Youth Safety Framework articulates the principles that guide Defence to be a youth safe organisation.



Defence is fully committed to youth safety, protection and wellbeing, and complies with the Commonwealth Child Safety Framework and the National Principles of Child Safe Organisations.

Inclusivity and diversity

The ADF cadet programs are underpinned by the principles of diversity and inclusivity, and provide opportunities for young people from a wide range of backgrounds and abilities.



There are no physical or cultural barriers to the programs, and young people from any background are welcome in the ADF cadet programs.

Engagement with community

Cadets are located in approximately 500 locations around Australia, covering a broad cross section of socio economic and culturally diverse demographics.



Often the only regular contact that many Australian communities have with Defence is with their local ADF cadet unit. This is therefore a unique and critical component of Defence's engagement with the Australian community.

Personal development

The ADF cadet programs are community based and volunteer led – civilian organisations that are overseen and administered by the ADF.



The ADF cadet programs are run in a military-like environment, inspiring, equipping and developing youth to contribute to society. The aim is not to train or recruit, but to develop a young person's capacity to contribute to society through positive, meaningful, well run and safe cadet programs.