

Outdoor Recreation

2015 Environmental Scan Snapshot



Outdoor education in schools is driving growth



Most schools choose to outsource outdoor education programs to specialists, because of the high risk and high cost of running the programs themselves.

Meeting different training needs

Training delivery needs to be flexible

to meet the needs of not-for-profit organisations, outdoor education specialists and outdoor adventure providers.



Volunteers are a significant part of the outdoor recreation workforce, but their numbers are decreasing. This may be because of the time and expense needed to meet the legislative requirements for being a volunteer.

An untold economic contribution

International studies that have measured how much outdoor activities contribute to the economy have concentrated on the longer term economic and social benefits of health and wellbeing. There have been state-based studies carried out in Australia, however,



a national study

would give governments a better picture of the contribution the outdoor recreation sector makes to our economy.

Workforce development needs

Multi-skilled workforce

Service Skills Australia's *2013 National Outdoor Sector Survey* found the workforce needs to be multi-skilled if they want to be employed full-time, because of the seasonal nature of activities. Ideally outdoor leaders would have experience or qualifications in an average of five areas. Training also needs to be delivered flexibly to allow those already in the sector to top up their skills.

Skills opportunities and concerns

There are opportunities in the sector for people with skills in facilitation, communication, relationship management and business management. There is also a shortage of outdoor leaders, which has led some organisations to develop links to overseas training providers to find graduates and increase their pool of candidates.

Occupations in demand

- Outdoor Leaders (Outdoor Adventure Guide)



Outdoor Recreation qualifications commencements

Qualification	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation	1,177	1,197	1,432	1,863	4,487
Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation (multiple Activities)*	180	333	249	37	0
Certificate III in Outdoor Recreation	774	1,518	1,476	1,597	1,277
Certificate III in Outdoor Recreation (multiple Activities)*	108	114	212	37	0
Certificate IV in Outdoor Recreation	362	752	2,564	2,268	2,856
Diploma of Outdoor Recreation	130	218	164	162	112

Future directions for endorsed components of the Outdoor Recreation Training Package

In response to the evolving needs of the sector, qualifications will be made more

flexible to ensure students are skilled in enough activity areas to give them the best possible chance of full-time employment.

Additional communication and facilitation skills will be included in all qualifications, to allow graduates to work effectively with school students.

Mandatory workplace assessment hours may also be introduced into units to address concerns about job readiness. The number of hours required will be determined by consulting with industry.



Please see the complete Sport, Fitness and Recreation Environmental Scan for the sources of statistics contained in this snapshot. Visit serviceskills.com.au/environmental-scans for a copy

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