

Why Campsite Accreditation?

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What is accreditation?

- A voluntary compliance and development program for camps and activity providers



Who Are We?

- The Australian Camps Association is the peak professional body for camps and outdoor activity providers.



History

- 1988 - Australian Campsite Accreditation Scheme
- 1997 – Camping with Confidence (Australian Campsite Accreditation Program)
- 2002 – Australian Campsite and Outdoor Activity Provider Accreditation Program
- 2007 – Review of Accreditation – Industry Standard

In a nut shell

- “The accreditation program is based on an assumption that the camping/outdoor experience is exciting, challenging and inspirational, and that it needs to take place in a safe environment where the well-being of the participant is the highest priority. The program offers a framework for this to be achieved without devaluing the uniqueness of the operator or of the camping/outdoor experience”

Why become accredited?

- Professionalism
- Organisational Development
- Benchmarking
- Marketing tool
- Govt Agency – Education, Parks
- Insurance
- Worksafe

Content

ACA's Accreditation Program contains 23 requirements in:

- Health, hygiene and safety
- Buildings and facilities
- Activity equipment and the conduct of activities
- Business administration
- Emergency procedures
- Camper/client supervision
- Quality assurance & consumer protection

Participation

Involvement in the accreditation program is voluntary. Participation indicates a willingness to submit an organisation and its operation to a review by peers to ensure good practices are in place.



Key Point

The intent of the program is to make the operator think about their organisation and its operation.



Expectations

The essence of the accreditation process is the commitment of operators to examine their procedures and facilities, ensuring that what is offered is in the best interest of consumers. This requires continuing, thoughtful review of the operation to ensure it reflects good practices and changing community attitudes.



The 2007 Landscape

- Adventure Activity Standards
- New Education Dept. (Vic) Guidelines
- High profile court cases
- Regulators eg Worksafe Vic,
- Well publicised accidents & near misses
- Increasing Public skepticism re Safety
- Adoption of accreditation programs by government agencies eg public land managers
- Development of Australian Standards

What next for Accreditation?

- An industry standard for the safe and reasonable operation of a campsite
- Simplification of process
- Articulation with other programs

Thank You

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