


Emergency Services Cadet Program

Parent Information Booklet



The Emergency Services Cadet Program is accredited with the Australian Council for Children and Youth Organisations



Is your child thinking about becoming a cadet in the Emergency Services Cadet Program?

Here is some information you may find useful...

What are Emergency Services Cadets?

The Emergency Services Cadet Program is a youth development program that aims to assist young people to develop life skills and encourages young people to participate in their local community. It builds initiative, leadership, self-discipline and loyalty. The skills and knowledge learned in the program can be used to assist community safety. The program introduces Queensland's young people to forms of emergency services related training that will better equip them for community life.

If your child is thinking of a career in the area of emergency services such as the State Emergency Service, Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, or the Queensland Ambulance Service then the skills they will learn in the Emergency Services Cadet Program will be a big plus.



The mission of the Emergency Services Cadet Program is...

To support Queensland's communities by providing youth development opportunities to Queensland's young people through a volunteer emergency service skills development program.

Values of the Emergency Services Cadet Program

- Providing Queensland's young people with access to a structured program that provides them with nationally recognised training in a safe environment
- Providing a practical approach in learning for the positive development of young people
- Putting the community's needs first
- Focusing on the needs of our clients
- Ensuring the highest professional standards and ethical conduct
- Valuing and developing our people as our most important asset
- Promoting teamwork
- Respecting and valuing the contributions of others.

Why does Emergency Services have a Cadet Program?

To develop:

- Life skills and encourage participation in local communities;
- Initiative, leadership, self discipline and loyalty;
- Skills and knowledge to enhance community safety;
- A recruitment pool for emergency services.

What is a cadet able to do?

A cadet with the Emergency Services Cadet Program can participate in lots of fun and interesting activities including:

- Attending cadet training where they will undertake both practical and theory lessons about different types of emergency services
- Attending camps where they can put their knowledge to good use, challenge themselves and have a great time
- Participating in public relation duties such as school fetes, field days, gala days, fundraising events and sausage sizzles, etc
- Helping out in low risk activities of real operations such as activities in co-ordination centres as an operational assistant:
 - › Operating communications systems;
 - › Acting as messengers in a headquarters environment
 - › Providing assistance in the logistics support area
 - › Provision of assistance in welfare (catering, etc).

What can't a cadet do?

A cadet's safety comes first in the Emergency Services Cadet Program. For this reason there are some things that a cadet cannot do such as:

- Attend an operation; and
- Train in dangerous activities such as vertical rescue, flood rescue and road accident rescue.

What is involved in Emergency Services Cadet training?

A cadet in the Emergency Services Cadet Program will be involved in learning many things such as first aid, fire prevention and awareness, general rescue, building safer communities, cadet communications and mentoring.

Depending on what the Cadet Group chooses to do for its elective modules, a cadet could learn anything from basic rescue skills to bush craft.

All the training that a cadet completes is life skills based. This means that a cadet will be able to use the skills learned as an Emergency Services Cadet in their everyday life.

For safety reasons there are things that cadets are unable to participate in, this includes disaster or emergency operations.



Certificate II Qualifications

A cadet may be able to attain a Certificate II in Public Safety in the Emergency Services Cadet Program.

These qualifications are directly linked to the relevant programs within the Emergency Services Cadet Program training framework. Upon satisfactory completion of the required assessment associated with a range of training programs and workplace experience they will then be awarded the appropriate qualification.

Other Skills

All of the skills that a cadet learns may assist them in finding employment. A cadet is constantly developing their skills in the areas of: teamwork, communication, leadership, following instructions, problem solving and community service.

The personal skills developed from becoming a cadet may include confidence, self-esteem, commitment, self-discipline, leadership qualities, teamwork, reliability and loyalty.

These are the types of attributes or skills and knowledge that employers are looking for.

Is There a Rank Structure in the Cadets?

Each Cadet Group decides on whether they will have a rank structure and how it will work. Some Cadet Groups choose to have the following ranks:

- Cadet
- Deputy Cadet Section Leader
- Cadet Section Leader
- Cadet Instructor.

Our Environment

The Emergency Services Cadet Program is committed to the safety and well being of all young people accessing our program, and to the education of adult members to ensure they are aware of their role in protecting young people.

We support the rights of young people and actively work to ensure a child safe environment is maintained at all times. We also support the rights and wellbeing of our staff and volunteers and encourage their active participation in building and maintaining a secure environment for all participants.

The Emergency Services Cadet Program is accredited with the Australian Council for Children and Youth Organisations [ACCYO]. This means that the Emergency Services Cadet Program complies with the child protection policy standards and the police checks policy standards of the ACCYO national accreditation project. This process ensures that standards in the area of child protection are met and maintained.

The Emergency Services Cadet Program is committed to creating a youth friendly environment where young people are:

- safe;
- protected;
- respected;
- valued;
- listened to;
- encouraged to participate;
- involved in decision making; and
- have their best interests and well being upheld.

Safety considerations and your child

Safety comes first in the Emergency Services Cadet Program.

Whilst there are inherent risks in every aspect of day-to-day living, adult members of the Emergency Services Cadet Program have a duty to ensure that cadets are cared for properly and not exposed to unacceptable risks. This includes:

- Ensuring that cadets have a safe program of activities to work through in a safe environment; and
- Ensuring that cadets are adequately supervised.

Personal safety of cadets

Personal safety of cadets is an important aspect of the Emergency Services Cadet Program. The Emergency Services Cadet Program has implemented a number of strategies that assist us in protecting young people. These include:

- Ensuring a cadet is not left alone with an adult member or cadet;
- Maintaining supervision ratios within Cadet Groups;
- Implementing professional behaviour standards through a Code of Conduct;
- Developing and maintaining policies and procedures that provide for a youth friendly environment and which ensure the safety and well being of cadets and adult members is paramount;
- Providing professional development training for adult members; and
- Rigorous selection processes for all adult members.



How are adult members selected?

The Emergency Services Cadet Program is committed to protecting young people and adult members. One of the methods of protecting young people is to ensure an organisation has appropriate recruitment and selection guidelines. All adult members of the Emergency Services Cadet Program are subject to a rigorous selection process. This involves referee checks, an interview, and undertaking a 'Working with Children Check' with the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian [CCYP&CG] in order to obtain a current valid blue card to work with children and young people.

In addition, adult members undergo an annual review, and are required to undergo a 'Working with Children Check' every two years to renew their blue card.

All adult members must hold a current valid blue card before they can be volunteers with the Emergency Services Cadet Program.

What are the requirements for enrolment as a cadet?

To qualify for enrolment as an Emergency Services Cadet, a young person must:

- Have commenced grade 8 at high school but not reached the age of 16 years;
- Have their parent's or guardian's permission to enrol;
- Be a resident of Australia; and
- Be certified by their parent or guardian as being capable of carrying out the normal duties and activities of the Emergency Services Cadets.

Young people 16 years and over are not eligible to join as a cadet.

What happens when a cadet turns 16 years of age?

Cadets who turn 16 years of age during the year may continue on until the end of that school year.

At the completion of the school year the young person has a choice of the following options:

- Apply to become an assistant leader with the Emergency Services Cadet Group if the young person is under 18 years of age and has progressed through the cadet system having gained sufficient knowledge, skills and experience to undertake this role;
- Continue as a member of the Emergency Services Cadet Program and undertake

additional training such as instructional training and leadership training. This option is dependent on the local Cadet Group's decision to retain members up to the age of 18;

- Apply to join a local emergency service organisation.

How does a young person apply to become a cadet?

If a young person wishes to enrol in the Emergency Services Cadet Program they must complete a Cadet Enrolment Form. Either the young person's parent or guardian will need to be present at the time of enrolment to sign permission forms. Cadet Groups hold sign-on nights for parents and young people to attend.

Parents or guardians will also be required to complete a medical details form that must be submitted with the enrolment form. If the young person has a medical condition, it is essential that a medical certificate signed by a doctor also be provided. This medical certificate (acquired at the individual's own expense) must clearly state whether the young person is sufficiently fit to participate in the activities of the Cadet Group. It must clearly define any restrictions upon what the young person may do and the types of activities that he or she cannot participate in.

What are the conditions of service for a cadet?

A cadet in the Emergency Services Cadet Program and their parent/guardian are required to read and sign the Emergency Services Cadet Program Code of Conduct for cadet members. This is an agreement that the cadet will abide by the standards of conduct for cadets in the Emergency Services Cadet Program.

A cadet must abide by the 'Code of Conduct'. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action and the possible termination of membership.

When a young person enrolls as a cadet in the Emergency Services Cadet Program they are required to complete a six week probation period. At the end of that period, the Local Cadet Coordinator and another adult member will conduct an interview with the cadet to determine whether they are suitable to continue.

When do Cadet Groups meet?

This varies from group to group but all Cadet Groups meet on a regular basis and cadets are required to attend one training camp per year. Some groups meet once every week and one Saturday or Sunday each month during the school semester.

Check with the Cadet Group that the young person is interested in joining for further details regarding meeting times and requirements.

Will it be dangerous?

Being a cadet with the Emergency Services Cadet Program is adventurous rather than dangerous! Qualified instructors will always be present to supervise any training. A cadet may even get a chance to help adult volunteers during operations by performing duties at headquarters with things like administration support and operating radios.

Safety issues are continuously stressed and ALL adult members are to assist in their enforcement.

Adult members of the Emergency Services Cadet Program are required to observe all safety instructions laid down in the Emergency Services Cadet Curriculum as well as be up-to-date with any relevant training policies and appropriate provisions of the Workplace Health and Safety Act.

NO training of a 'risky' or 'adventurous' nature shall proceed without a Safety Officer being present throughout the entire training session.

Legal information

Adult members have a legal, moral and ethical duty to ensure all cadets are cared for properly and not exposed to unnecessary risks. This means that in planning or conducting any activity, adult members must be aware of any potential risks, and be prepared to stop or cancel an activity if the risk to the cadet and the Cadet Group is too great.

The Queensland Government Insurance Fund (QGIF) covers all cadet members enrolled in the Emergency Services Cadet Program while a cadet and their group are undertaking any activities approved by the Emergency Services Cadet Program. This includes camps, activities and general training.

Do cadets get to wear a uniform?

YES! After a cadet completes their probationary period (during which they can decide whether they enjoy the Cadet Program) they will be issued with a uniform, which includes:

An Emergency Services Cadet Program:

- Dress shirt;
- T-Shirt;
- Trousers;
- Broad Brimmed Hat;
- Cap;
- Belt;
- Socks;
- Boots;
- Overalls.

This means that a cadet does not have to purchase any uniforms. The only time a cadet will be expected to provide clothing is when wet or cold weather gear is necessary.

It will be the responsibility of the cadet to maintain these items, and when a cadet leaves the program the cadet will be required to return all the items that were issued to them.

What will it cost?

Not much in dollars but heaps in commitment! The Emergency Services Cadet Program is free to join and there are no ongoing fees. Uniforms and working clothes are supplied free of charge.

As a parent you may be asked to supply some food and transport for the yearly camp.

Where can I obtain further information?

If a young person is interested in joining the Emergency Services Cadet Program or you have any questions regarding the cadets, contact the Youth Development Officer in the Region closest to you.

- Far Northern Region (07) 4039 8022
- Northern Region (07) 4799 7114
- Central Region (07) 4938 4996
- Mackay Area Office (07) 4965 6654
- South Western Region (07) 4616 1582
- North Coast Region (07) 5420 7563
- South Eastern Region (07) 3287 8557
- Brisbane Region (07) 3287 8557

Further information can be obtained from the Emergency Services Cadets website at **www.emergency.qld.gov.au/cadets**.



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