

5.1 - PUBLIC STATEMENTS

GENERAL

The ACT Branch of the Scout Association of Australia (*ACT Scouts*) encourages free and open debate within its membership on issues connected with youth development. *ACT Scouts* will also comment on public issues from time to time. Such interaction with the community may help to improve the general understanding of the role of Scouting and to ensure that the Scouting viewpoint is considered by the ACT's decision-makers.

Statements made by members delegated to do so should be free of gender-specific and other discriminatory language.

The *ACT Scouts* will provide advice and assistance to members wishing to contact the media, either through the Branch Office or the Public Relations Commissioner.

STATEMENTS FROM *ACT SCOUTS*

Views expressed by individual members of *ACT Scouts* are expressed in a personal capacity, not on behalf of the Scout Association. However, *ACT Scouts* itself, as a major association, has a need to articulate the collective views of its members to the community, government, industry and other stakeholders on matters of concern.

To this end, *ACT Scouts* has developed responsibility for making appropriate public statements to all its operational units, including Sections, Groups, Regions, Branch. All units are encouraged to enter public debate within their areas of competence and to identify the source of the comment.

The authority to issue public statements on behalf of *ACT Scouts* is delegated by the Chief Commissioner.

Delegations to make public statements

It is the policy of *ACT Scouts* that the following individuals and units are authorised to make public statements on behalf of the ACT Branch of the Association or a section of the Branch:

Chief Commissioner, Branch President and Executive Officer

Authorised to issue statements on matters of ACT-wide interest, which do not conflict with the established policies of the Scout Association and which articulate Branch positions relevant to the community. The Chief Commissioner may, in turn, authorise other office bearers (for example, Branch Commissioners) to issue statements. The Public Relations Commissioners holds such a delegation.

Region Commissioners, District Commissioners and Group Leaders

Authorised to issue statements on matters of regional or local interest which do not conflict with the established policies of the Scout Association, including the promotion of activities and advice to the community and other regional stakeholders on Scouting-related matters. Statements may be issued by the ACT Commissioner for the Region or office holders nominated by the ACT Commissioner, such as Group Leaders.

Other Units of ACT Scouts

Other Units include the Branch Rover Council, the ACT Venturer Council, the Training Team, Jamboree/Cuboree Organising Committees and so on. These units may issue statements, within their areas of responsibility which do not conflict with the established policies of the Scout Association, in the name of the Chair or his or her nominee, with the approval of the Chief Commissioner.

NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Chief Commissioner, the Executive Officer will maintain a Register of Public Statements. Units of *ACT Scouts* should forward to the Executive Officer copies of all statements as they are issued.

AUTHORITY

This statement was approved by the Branch Executive Committee on 27 November 1996.