

5th February 2026



Australian Camps Association Statement

The Australian Camps Association (ACA) is issuing this statement on the back of a negative media story about allegations of improper conduct at a camp.

ACA CEO Peter McDougall states that “The ACA cannot stress strongly enough that we and our members do not condone the practices reported in the media, and these allegations have a significant impact on the brand, credibility and reputation of all camps.”

“As a sector over many years, camp operators have worked hard to build a strong and credible brand of camps that provide fantastic benefits to children across Australia.”

“It is important to note that all camps do have the appropriate internal risk management processes in place to ensure that all activities that take place on their sites, are in line with current community standards and expectations.”

“The safety and wellbeing of all participants at camps is paramount, and the 523 camps in Australia operate at the highest level in all areas”.

Independent research has shown that camps reduce anxiety, increase connection to school, increase connection to peers and increase efficacy, all strong markers of good mental health. Camps and outdoor education programs involve physical activity, working in small, facilitated groups and connection with the natural world – a combination that is highly effective in improving physical and mental wellbeing.

Statement Ends