

ORCA: A new national body

News brief

The NORLD Board (National Outdoor Recreation Leadership Development) met in July 1995. The following update is a report of the Board meeting with a focus on keeping all members informed of decisions made and future directions set.

1. Competencies

A main agenda item of the meeting was to review and discuss initial feedback on the draft national competencies standards distributed at the end of May 1995. According to the timeline set by the Board, by this time feedback will have been incorporated into the rewrite and subsequent production of the final draft competencies. In November Convenors are to consider feedback and meet with the Board for determination of future directions.

2. NORLD's future structure

Due to the success of the NORLD Board in the arena of networking and policy development, the Board has been invited to be the representative of the outdoor recreation sector of the Recreation Industry. To this end the NORLD Board has made the following decisions:

- 2.1 That the NORLD Board restructure to establish the Outdoor Recreation Council of Australia (ORCA). The initial task is to create a work group to examine a constitution suitable for such an organisation.
- 2.2 That at the January 1996 meeting of the NORLD Board, the constitution be finalised and adopted. The NORLD Board to become the interim executive of the ORCA until an annual general meeting at a suitable time and venue is held by July 1996.
- 2.3 To this end the interim ORCA executive will be calling for nominations for all positions created under the constitution at the appropriate time in early 1996.

3. ORCA's Role

A strong point of the discussion has been the role of any such organisation within the area of accreditation. At this stage it is the view of the NORLD Board that a perceived role for ORCA is as the certification body for accreditation within the outdoor recreation sector of the recreation industry. ORCA would become the authority that gives approval for the recognition of training organisations. The industry itself and present training providers such as the Canoe Board and TAFE would apply for accredited training provider status. The certification received by the industry participant will be issued by the training provider with an insignia of the ORCA. This will ensure industry and nation-wide recognition of the award. If in the future, the industry decides on an industry wide benchmark as a prerequisite for leadership positions in certain areas, ORCA would need to consider the appropriate training provider.

I trust that the preceding information is informative and I invite constructive comments.

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