



The Scout Association of Australia
Incorporated by Royal Charter

New South Wales Branch
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MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 26 February 2018

Scouts NSW launches Family Support Fund

Scouts NSW has launched a Family Support Fund to assist young people from financially disadvantaged backgrounds to participate in one of the most popular youth organisations in the State.

Scouts NSW is a voluntary organisation that aims to help change the lives of young people between the ages of 6 and 25, through fun and challenging activities, unique experiences and everyday adventures. The Scout program helps young people to make a positive impact in their local communities.

The Family Support Fund was established and launched by Chief Commissioner, Neville Tomkins OAM on 17 February 2018. The fund will provide financial assistance to current and prospective youth members to cover Scouting related costs such as such scout uniforms, membership fees, and expenses associated with adventurous activities such as rock-climbing, caving, flying or camping.

“Sometimes families find it’s difficult to make ends meet and they need a little extra support,” explained the Chief Commissioner for NSW.

“We want more young people to have the opportunity to build valuable leadership and team building skills, as well as personal confidence and resilience” he added.

With over 17,000 youth and adult members from diverse backgrounds, Scouts is one of the largest and most successful youth organisations in the state.

One of its unique attributes is that the young people take leadership roles in running their Scout Group and planning activities. This “youth-led, adult-supported” approach has been attracting more young people in recent years, as it offers complementary skills to those learned at school or through organised sports.

The Family Support Fund is run wholly for the benefit of successful applicants. All funds donated will be distributed to families. The Royal Freemason’s Benevolent Institution is a founding supporter of the Fund.

Australian Council of Social Services research into disadvantaged families found that one in six children under the age of 15 are living in poverty and two-thirds of



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disadvantaged children are not able to participate in a hobby or regular leisure activity.

“Our Family Support Fund will enable more children and young adults to reach their potential” said Mr Tomkins.

To find out more about Scouts Australia NSW, visit <https://www.nsw.scouts.com.au/>

Note: ACOSS report: <http://www.acoss.org.au/a-future-for-all-children/>

Websites:

Scouts Australia Website: www.scouts.com.au

Scouts NSW Website: www.nsw.scouts.com.au

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Media: For more information or to organise an interview, please contact Elizabeth Way on 9735 9049 or email elizabeth.way@nsw.scouts.com.au.

High resolution images are available on request.