

Tuesday 5 May 2020

The NEW Australian Adventure Activity Standards:

What do they mean for
my business?



OutdoorsSA
South Australia's Peak Outdoor Body

Welcome

The presenter: Luke Duncan

Board member – Outdoors SA

Outdoors SA is the peak body for adventure activities in South Australia

We are a member-based association that supports those who deliver adventure activities and outdoor pursuits in South Australia.

This includes but is not limited to:

- Clubs
- Community Groups
- Education providers
- Tourism operators
- Leaders
- Adventure racing
- Adventure therapy



What will be covered in the session

What are the AAAS and why do they exist?

A brief history of the AAS and the inception of the Australian AAS (AAAS).

An understanding of the three components of the nation-wide framework.

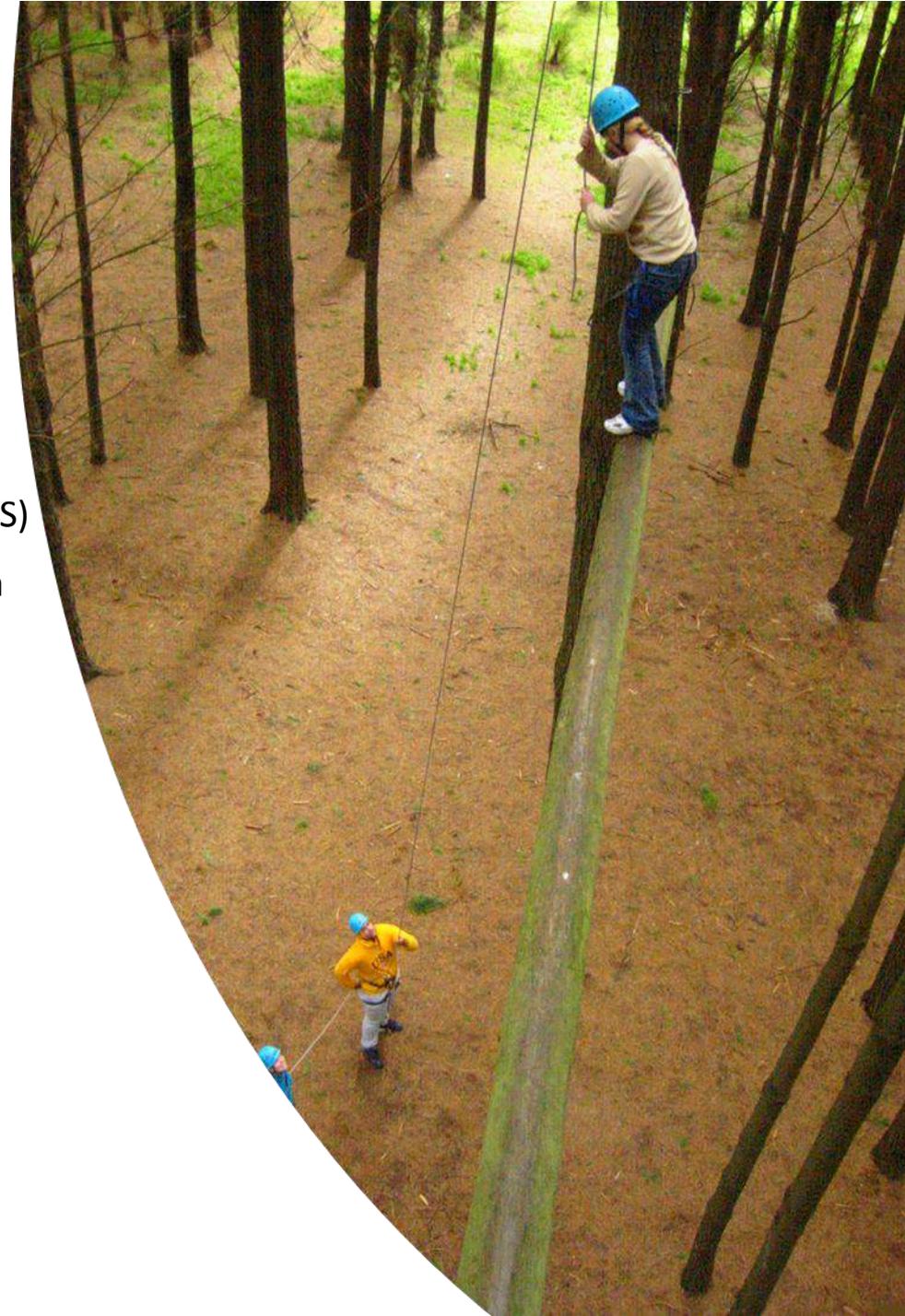
What the Framework really means for my business?

What are the AAAS?

The Australian Adventure Activity Standards (AAAS) and related Good Practice Guides (GPG) provide a voluntary good-practice framework for safe and responsible planning and delivery of **led** outdoor adventure activities with **dependent** participants.

Key points:

Led refers to tour guides, instructors, leaders or person in charge. It is worth noting, this does not mean they must be a paid leader. An experienced hiker taking a group of less experienced hikers would fall into this category.



Why are they NEW?

The AAS are not new as such. State-based **Adventure Activity Standards** have existed for almost 15 years.

Victoria was the first state to develop them with Sport and Recreation funding, followed by SA in 2007.

Recreation SA received funding to update the SA AAS in 2014/15. This process went over budget and took 2 years. The SA AAS are currently still available on Rec SA's website.

Only 2 years later, the commencement of a nation-wide framework began.

This was largely due to inconsistencies between states Standards. Confusion around which Standards to follow for organisations that operate nation-wide.

The Department for Education's policy team used the AAS to help write the *Camps and Excursions Guidelines*

What are the AAAS?

The formation of the Australian AAS and GPG's have been supported and funded 2016-2019 by a meeting of the State and Territory Sport and Recreation Ministers of Australia. It comes after nearly fifteen years of state-based standards.

The framework is separated into 3 areas:

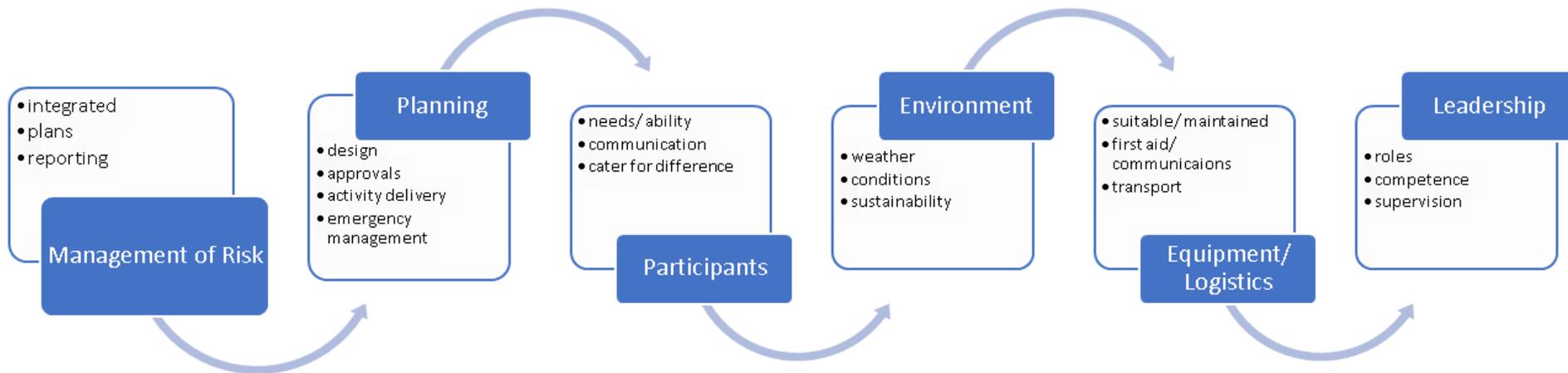


The Standard:

These are **key requirements**, regardless of skill set or activity discipline. The Standard does not focus on individual activity requirements.

All these components inter-relate with each other.

Components like emergency management, weather conditions or equipment suitability should be handled the same whether it is for Barossa Valley cycle tours or Fleurieu Peninsula surfing.



The Core Good Practice Guide:

The Good Practice Guide is designed to ensure effective, responsible, sustainable and safe delivery of adventure activities to dependent participants.

Use this document for non-activity specific information that is generic across all skill sets.

Examples of what you might find in the Core GPG:

- How to deal with Allergies
- How to deal with Alcohol, Smoking and Drugs on your site. Tours
- Gender Considerations
- Drinking Water Safety
- Land owner Requirements
- Wildlife Safety



Activity Specific Good Practice Guide:

These are detailed for each activity.

- Guide to dependant participant ratios
- Appropriate age of participants
- Qualification requirements (UoC)

www.training.gov.au

- Suitable locations for the activity
- Activity Specific Wildlife Requirements

E.g. Blue Ring Octopus/ Crocodile for snorkelling: Please interpret generic confusion

The reason the these are specific to each activity is that there are so many variables.

E.G - the ratio for snorkel tours is very different to the ratio for guided walks on intermediate terrain



Leader Competence

A combination of pathways may be used. While a qualification is one way an activity provider might recognise a leader's competence, it is not the only way.

The Core GPG suggests 4 ways to ensure leaders are competent:

1. Training qualifications and/or a training course (e.g. University degree, TAFE qualification)
2. outdoor sector or organisational accreditation system (e.g. Paddle Australia guide or instructor award/ BLSA Bushwalking instructor certificate)
3. Leader registration scheme (e.g. NOLRS)- Primarily WA and QLD
4. Peer recognition and verification process (e.g. provider has leader demonstrate their competence).

So what does this mean for my business?



Firstly, do you offer adventure activities?

Do you have a **Duty of Care** over dependent participants in adventure activities? If **yes**, familiarise yourself, and follow the industry-based recommended practice.

In order to comply with Commercial Tour Operator (CTO) and Licensed Tour Operator (LTO) requirements in DEW and Parks Vic. **Note: Currently SA AAS- Outdoors SA currently in consultation*

In order to comply with Australian Tourism Accreditation Program (ATAP) requirements to register for **Camps and Adventure accreditation**

To comply with state-based Department for Education Excursion Guidelines. **Note: Currently SA AAS. Outdoors SA currently working with DFE to align to the nationally consistent framework.*

So what does this mean for my business?

Some providers may have **their own standards or guidelines** appropriate to their **duty of care**. It is recommended that these be reviewed periodically to ensure current duty of care expectations are met.

The AAAS and GPGs may aid such reviews. Having been developed by outdoor sector and activity experts, they offer **guidance based on the best available knowledge and past experience**. Using them is strongly encouraged.

If an incident occurs during a led adventure activity, Safe Work SA and the courts may refer to the AAAS to determine whether negligence has occurred

The Australian Adventure Activity Standard (AAAS) and associated Good Practice Guides (GPGs) is not intended to:

- Identify all common law obligations or legal and regulatory requirements
- Foresee all possible uses and situations that may occur while conducting an activity
- Provide legal advice.

Case Study 1: Accommodation/ Station Owner in regional South Australia

The accommodation wants to offer scenic/
guided walks through the property:

e.g. sunset walk and wine at the lookout

By following the Activity Specific GPG is states that in this situation the guide in charge should hold the following to be complaint:

- Advanced Bushwalking Leadership certificate or Diploma in Outdoor Recreation
- Remote Area First Aid



Case Study 2:

A fishing charter company has decided to offer a scenic lunch and snorkel combo



According to the Standard and the Activity Specific GPG the guide in charge/ charter operator would need the following qualifications to be compliant:

- PADI (or equivalent) Level 1 Snorkel Coach OR PADI SCUBA Dive Master
- Surf Rescue Certificate or Bronze Medallion

OR

- National Training Package Units in Guide snorkelling/ Instruct snorkelling

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Mountain Biking Canoeing
Angling Orienteering OSA
Horse Trail Riding Surfing
Bush Walking Abseiling MTE
Yachting OSA Rock Climbing
Rock Climbing Canoeing Surf
Horse Trail Riding Angling
Canoeing Bush Walking Horse
Rock Climbing OSA Abseiling
Yachting Bush Walking MTE
OSA Orienteering
Surfing Angling
Canoeing MTE Bush
Horse Camp SA
Walk
Climb
OSA EDIVE
ave
absel
bush
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Are there any questions?

You can download the standard,
the core GPG and the activity
specific GPG from:

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