

ATTACHMENT E – OVERVIEW OF HISTORY OF CADETS

Cadets and the Royal Australian Navy

1. Naval Cadets originated in Australia during the early years of the 20th Century. Naval Cadets formed part of the Citizens Naval Forces and participation was voluntary for youths aged 14 and above. Navy Cadets were formally created by the *Naval Defence Act 1910* (Cth), and were called the Australian Naval Cadet Corps.⁷¹ When Universal Military Training started in 1911, service in the Cadets became compulsory for males over 14 years of age. These Cadets were then transferred into the Royal Australian Navy Reserves. When Universal Military Training ceased in 1929, the Australian Naval Cadet Corps remained a voluntary service until it was incorporated into the Royal Australian Navy Reserves in 1940. Some Royal Australian Navy Reserve cadet units survived in limited form in some schools after the war, until 1973. The forerunner of the present Naval Reserve Cadets originated in the Navy League of Australia. In the first decade of the 20th Century, the United Kingdom Navy League (an organisation dedicated to supporting the Royal Navy) established itself in Tasmania, New South Wales and Victoria, but its aim was to develop naval defence, not create a cadet movement. After World War 1, the Navy League branch in New South Wales formed the very first Australian Sea Cadet Corps. The Australian Sea Cadet Corps was designed to instil youth with maritime training, discipline and to foster an interest in the Navy, but it was not under any control of the Royal Australian Navy. By 1939, the Navy League had established 12 units in New South Wales and Victoria.
2. After World War II, the Navy League expanded the Australian Sea Cadet Corps into the other states and territories of Australia and by 1959 there were 33 units. The Navy League retained control of the Australian Sea Cadet Corps, administering buildings and instructors for Cadets. However, the numbers of Cadets grew so rapidly that the League did not have the capacity to foster all incoming recruits. In 1973, the Navy League and the Royal Australian Navy Reserves Cadets combined to form the Naval Reserve Cadets, which would be fully under the control of the Royal Australian Navy. The Navy League maintained much influence in the new organisation, giving an award to the best Naval Reserve cadet each year.
3. Naval Reserve Cadets learned technical maritime skills such as compass direction, ship recognition and rope skills. They regularly visited Navy ships, and many units had their own sailing boats in order to give Cadets boating experience. As well as maritime skills, Cadets fostered discipline through military drill and also participated in rifle shooting. The Naval Reserve Cadets were renamed Australian Navy Cadets in 2000. The Australian Navy Cadets continues to have a 'maritime focus'; training is nautical in nature and includes a variety of waterborne activities including, but not limited to: navigation, communications, seamanship, sailing, power boating, drill, first aid, firearms proficiency and adventurous training.

⁷¹ CRESD, *History of the ADF Cadets* Feb 2006.

Cadets and the Australian Army

4. Cadets have been associated with Australian armed forces for 150 years. The first unit was established in Australia in 1866, at St Mark's Collegiate School, New South Wales. This unit subsequently became the King's School Cadet Corps in 1869.
5. Cadets remained under State auspices until 1906 when the Commonwealth Cadet Corps was established. Conscription for part time home service, including service by Cadets, was introduced in 1909 and, under the *Defence Act 1903*, the Corps was included in the provisions for Universal Military Training. Conscription for part-time service was abandoned in 1929.
6. Following the suspension of Universal Military Training in 1929, Cadets were divided into two categories for the purposes of organisation and training:
 - a. Regimental detachments affiliated with units of the Militia forces.
 - b. Detachments that were generally school-based and not affiliated with Militia units. (School-based units did not receive Army assistance).
7. In 1939 Permanent Army staff were withdrawn from the Militia and Regimental detachments were abandoned. School based units continued to function but with difficulties caused by staff and equipment shortages. In 1941 cadet units began to receive more Army support and in 1944 the provision of uniforms at public expense was authorised. Conditions of service improved and equipment became more plentiful. By May 1946 cadet activities were paid for by the Army.
8. Affiliations between cadet units and Citizen Military Forces were developed during the period 1949-51. At that time the title of 'Australian Cadet Corps' (**ACC**) was officially adopted. Cadet Brigades with Regular army staff were established and remained in operation until the mid 1970s when the Cadet Corps was disbanded. The Corps was reinstated in 1976 but with a number of changes. Community based, rather than school based units were encouraged, war-like training was not to be conducted and an annual camp was to be provided at no cost to the cadet.
9. In 1984 school based units were given the opportunity to apply for 'full support' status and become community based units. Cadet units that remained school-based became 'Limited Supported Units' and received very little, if any, Army support. In 1993, the title of 'Australian Army Cadet Corps' was approved with the short title remaining 'ACC'. In 1998 'Limited Support Units' were accorded 'full support' status. In 2001 the title of Australian Army Cadets was approved with the short title of AAC.

Cadets and the Royal Australian Air Force

10. The Air Training Corps was founded during World War II. Its foundation was the Empire Air Training Scheme, a British project designed to train young men as aircrew for the Royal Air Force (and the Royal Australian Air Force). The War Cabinet of Australia approved the creation of the Air Training Corps in February 1941. The Air Training Corps was to provide 'general education of young men between the ages of 16 and 18 years who desired eventually to join the Royal Australian Air Force.'⁷² Other

⁷² Videon, B.J. *Air Training Corps: The First Fifty Years* 1991 p.3.

goals of the Air Training Corps were to foster knowledge of aviation, a sense of discipline and provide elementary technical knowledge for Australian youth.

11. The wartime organisation of the Air Training Corps was based on that of the Royal Australian Air Force, and consisted of a Wing in each state divided into various Squadrons. By 1943, there were 97 squadrons in operation with 12,640 Cadets.⁷³ Of these, more than 4,000 progressed to Royal Australian Air Force aircrew and a large proportion of the remainder into other Air Force or Service postings.
12. The Air Training Corps played an important part in training young men to become future aircrew, providing a significant contribution to the war effort.
13. The Air Training Corps flourished in the post war years. Under the guidance of ex-Service personnel serving as cadet staff, it became an 'air youth movement'.⁷⁴ International Air cadet exchange programs were established to foster links between overseas Air Cadet units and programs. Cadets participated in many activities including gliding and flying training and traditional Cadet activities such as rifle shooting and bivouacs.
14. In March 2001, the Air Training Corps was renamed the Australian Air Force Cadets. This is a community based aviation-focussed youth development organisation, providing personal and teamwork skill development. Cadets are encouraged to develop decision-making, fellowship/leadership and resilience skills and contribute to the operation of their squadrons.

The Australian Services Cadet Scheme

15. The Australian Services Cadet Scheme grew steadily from 1976 and has grown to become a highly successful youth development scheme, with over 25,000 young people in the three elements, the largest government sponsored youth organisation in the country. Cadet units are very highly respected by the community, schools and by the youth of Australia. Many regional, rural and even some city communities, do not have direct links to the ADF, and therefore cadet units are often the only visible aspect of Defence in the communities.⁷⁵ Cadets participate in many ceremonies of national significance such as ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day, representing the wider Defence community at events. Cadets have also participated in other major public events such as the flag raising ceremony at the 2000 Sydney Paralympic Games.
16. Despite the success of the Australian Services Cadet Scheme, there have been continual attempts to improve its quality. Several reports and reviews have been conducted, with the aim of analysing the Scheme and drawing upon strengths and weaknesses, to make it more inclusive and challenging and to enhance its role in the community. In 1996 a report undertaken by Colonel Brewer recommended that Defence enter into negotiations with the states and territories to jointly fund the creation of new cadet units.
17. In 1996, in agreement with the States and Territories, the Government moved to strengthen the school Cadets' scheme in both government and non-government

⁷³ *Ibid* p.5.

⁷⁴ *Ibid* p.11.

⁷⁵ Defence White Paper 2000 – *Defence 2000 – Our Future Defence Force* Chapter 7.

- schools. This resulted in the 'Cadets in High School' program which sought agreement with the states and territories to provide a dollar for dollar subsidy, to a maximum of \$3 million, for Australian Services Cadet Scheme units established in schools under a state or territory Cadets program.
18. The first state-Defence partnership youth program, called Cadets WA, was launched in Western Australia in 1996. It worked to establish new cadet units in high schools and foster youth development through extra-curricular activities. The Australian Services Cadet Scheme became a major part of the program and initially six units were established in Perth metropolitan high schools. The Government later expanded the program to encompass more than 200 cadet units across the State with about 8,000 young people taking part. It is estimated that more than 100,000 young people have been through the program. The State Government recognises the importance of providing development opportunities to young West Australians, and is now investing \$3.6 million into Cadets WA each year.⁷⁶
 19. The success of the youth program in Western Australia encouraged other states to follow the lead. Victoria announced its Youth Development Program in 1998, with the same themes as Cadets WA, and several Australian Services Cadet Scheme units were moved into high schools under the program enabling secondary students the opportunity to participate in Cadets. The Victorian Advance program is a one-year school-based program that encourages youth to get actively involved in community organisations such as ADF Cadets.
 20. Queensland initiated its Youth Action Program in 1999 and South Australia launched Activ8 in 2000. They were initially structured as time-limited two-year funded programs, usually hosted by school. The school identified the community program partner(s) with whom it would work in partnership to design and deliver the program, based on a memorandum of agreement. All grant funding is paid to the host organisation and paid on the basis of the number of enrolments. Programs engaging ADF Cadets as the service provider are allocated \$225 per participant per annum from the Queensland Government to cover costs.⁷⁷

⁷⁶ Western Australian Government – Media Statement 10 March 2016.

⁷⁷ Government South Australia – Handbook activ8 2008.