



Scouts Australia NSW

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A Vision for Growth – Scouts NSW

Dear Scouting Members,

I am both honoured and privileged to have been appointed your new Chief Commissioner, and I look forward to working with you towards a brighter, stronger Scouts NSW

In taking up the role, I commit to supporting you, our NSW members, as well as our Branch Council, and our Board, with enthusiasm, a willingness to listen, and an ability to translate thoughts and ideas into actions for growth.

Working in partnership with all stakeholders, I have a vision for Scouts NSW to become the pre-eminent youth development organisation in our State. From the passion and dedication I have already seen in our Members and Leaders, I know I do not stand alone in my vision.

There is no reason why Scouts NSW cannot be the “youth organisation of choice” across the state. There is so much potential to be the largest Branch in Australia, and there are thousands more young people in our communities waiting to find a place to belong, like Scouts, that can offer them so many valuable skills and experiences.

I invite you on this journey with me, as I focus primarily on seven key areas drawn from the Scouts NSW strategic plan. These include:

- **Growing membership** of youth members and adult leaders with a **particular focus on retention** and support of “**grass roots**” ScoutingFurther **building trust** among all key stakeholders
- Further developing a **positive and enabling culture**
- To be a “**youth- led, adult supported**” organisation drawing on the **vital experience, skills and wisdom** of all our adults
- Ensuring a **safe environment** for all
- Building **stronger community engagement** with state and local government, as well as the corporate sector, and philanthropists
- **Building financial sustainability** to ensure affordable Scouting.



Achieving these outcomes requires not only a clear vision and agreed priorities, but also an alignment of all our activities. Importantly, it will require a united and forward looking leadership team.

I want to hear your views on how we can grow Scouting across NSW. To enable this, I will be holding open forums in the coming months across all Regions. You are also most welcome to email me at chief.commissioner@nsw.scouts.com.au with any questions, comments or ideas.

In addition to the forums, our adult leaders will be invited shortly to participate in an important survey to share your volunteer experience. The survey is part of a research project involving a number of Scouting Branches and the University of Western Australia to find ways to improve the volunteering experience in Scouting. I encourage you to participate in the survey as it represents another avenue to seek direct feedback from our leaders who give so generously of their time.

Successful groups, and trained effective Group Leaders, are critical to membership growth. Over the coming months, we will be developing new approaches to ensuring groups receive the support they need to attract and retain both youth and adult members. To ensure our collective focus is on group support, 2017 will be declared the "Year of the Group and Group Leader".

Thank you for the wonderful contribution you have already made to Scouts NSW.

I very much look forward to working in partnership with you so that, together, we can reposition Scouts NSW to a prominent, new and exciting role in the community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Tomkins', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Neville Tomkins OAM JP
Chief Commissioner
Scouts Australia (NSW Branch)
19 August 2016