## **MEDIA RELEASE**



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## Apply now for your kid to embark on a once in a lifetime journey

Applications for the Kokoda Challenge Youth Program are now open

Does the sound of hiking 96kms in under 39 hours in Australia's toughest team endurance event sound appealing to your child? What about undertaking six months of community service and embarking on a 10-day Afghan style camel trek in the Flinders Ranges in South Australia? If so, then they will be delighted to know that the <a href="Kokoda Challenge Youth Program">Kokyp)</a> has opened applications for them to undertake the experience of a lifetime.

Gold Coast and Brisbane teens between the ages of 15-17 years now have the opportunity to embark on an adventure like no other. The Kokoda Youth Foundation (KYF) is offering teens in our community the opportunity to undergo a 14-month life skills program aimed at engaging and inspiring them to reach their full potential. Affectionately known as the Kokoda Kids, all those who undergo the Kokoda Challenge Youth Program report a complete transformation in their perspective on life, who they want to be and what they want to do with their future.

It is a journey of self-discovery and personal development that teaches kids about the history of the Kokoda Campaign during World War II and the values this battle instilled into our Australian soldiers; Courage, Endurance, Mateship and Sacrifice.

"Being a Kokoda Kid has absolutely changed my life. It helped mould me into the person I am today..." says past Kokoda Kid, Jared. "I'm chasing what I want without any hesitation."

Parents might repel at the thought of what this program might cost, but most expenses are paid by the donations raised through the <u>Kokoda Challenge events</u>, keeping the costs to parents down to an absolute minimum.

"There is a lot of pressure on kids at this age to choose a path, despite sometimes feeling like they lack direction and are unsure of what they want to do" says Johllene Elson, Chief Operating Officer of the Kokoda Youth Foundation and previous volunteer leader of KCYP. "The program provides kids with the platform to discover who they are and what they want to do."

If your child is located in the Gold Coast/Brisbane area and is aged between 15-17 years, they are encouraged to sign up online at <a href="www.kokodachallenge.com">www.kokodachallenge.com</a>. Be quick as applications close on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March and limited spaces are available.

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