



## **Goanna Park National Adventure Camp – Darwin**

### **Information Sheet**

**CLOSING DATE HAS BEEN EXTENDED - 30 MAY 2017**

#### **Overview**

Each year Variety NT holds the Goanna Park National Adventure Camp in Darwin. The camp site is 90km east from Darwin on the Arnhem Highway. The camp is run annually for 2 one week consecutive camps and has been in operation for 14 years. In 2017, Camp 1 runs from Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> July – Sat, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2017 and Camp 2 runs from Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> July - Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

The main mission of these camps is to offer 13-17 year old teenagers who have a mild to moderate special need or are disadvantaged (socially, economically, remote) with a camping experience in a secure environment. The aim is for them to develop friendships, increase self-esteem and independence while participating in a week of organised activities and opportunities without the everyday routine that a teenager experiences at home or within the confines of an education setting.

The Goanna Park camp site is on a large sprawling property that sits about 200 metres from the Arnhem Highway. On the site you will find a large main hall/kitchen and outside undercover area, ablutions (2 showers and 3 toilets per male/female bathrooms) and a disabled bathroom, 5 X rooms with bunk beds for the use of carers/volunteers, a medical centre, a large billabong/lake (yes there are crocs there), bush tracks, many rocky outcrops and lots of trees. All participants have 3 healthy and hearty meals per day plus morning and afternoon tea and snacks when requested. Campers and rostered night carers sleep in large screened tents under the stars.

An integral part of the camp is the attendance of the Junior Police Rangers who will buddy up with the campers as peer support and this action creates some incredible experiences for all the kids involved. As you can imagine, most teenagers have to listen to grownups telling them what to do most days whether it be at home, school or work and so to have kids their own age encourage them as friends works small miracles.

The camp is arranged by the Variety NT office in consultation with long term volunteers, members or previous staff who have run the camp since its inception. All the carers are volunteers either from the NT or will accompany campers from other States and will hold some qualification or experience.

#### **Carer**

Each child is to be accompanied by a carer. If you do not have your own carer Variety NT may be able to recommend a qualified carer.

Carers will need to hold some qualification and experience in working with children with special needs. It is advisable that the carer knows as much about the child they will be caring for so that both parties are comfortable with spending the whole week together. The Carers responsibility will be for up to two

children with the assistance of 1 Junior Carer and 1 Junior Police Ranger during the day. There will be an additional 2 carers assigned to the evening shift sleeping in tents near the campers.

## **Applications**

Applications for campers and carers became available on 1st February 2017 and close 30 April 2017. The cost for each camper will be funded by Variety NT.

Camper application forms can be accessed here:

<https://variety.smartygrants.com.au/goannapark2017camper>

Carer/Volunteer application forms can be accessed here:

<https://variety.smartygrants.com.au/goannaparkcarervolleeapplication2017>

**Any questions? Please do not hesitate to get in touch with Carla Da Silva on Phone: (08) 8981 2544 or**

**Email: [grants@varietynt.org.au](mailto:grants@varietynt.org.au)**

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