



Edmund Rice Camps SA Inc
Providing Camps, Day Activities, Trainings & Support Services to Families

Edmund Rice Camps SA Inc is a not-for-profit, volunteer based, charitable organization, every dollar raised goes towards providing our

Donations gratefully received

- Online at: www.ourcommunity.com.au
- By Cheque to: 117 SOUTH RD, Thebarton SA 5031
- Or by telephone: 08 8234 2937

All donations over \$2 are Tax Deductible (DGR 752764663)

Agency Overview

Edmund Rice Camps (SA) Inc (ERC) provides camps, day activities and other support programs to children, young people and families. ERC also provides volunteers, particularly young adults, with opportunities to gain experience, and training working with children, young people & families. ERC also provides trainings and workshops to individuals, organizations and agencies. The trainings that we run provide valuable funds to ensure our other services are able to run.



Essentially the camps are about providing children with opportunities to reach their full potential. We do this by providing a safe environment that is inclusive and encourages participation, friendship and trust. The fostering of relationships is encouraged through our unique provision of one on one mentoring and care during the young person's time on camp.

ERC is attempting to meet the growing needs of South Australian families through the continuation of current programs to ensure that as many children, young people and families as possible, are given the opportunity to access services, respite and recreation.

The leaders (mentors) on camps and day activities are volunteers ranging in age from 16 years old and onwards. Our volunteers undergo intense training in mandatory reporting (Child Safe Environments), behavior management and our policy and guidelines. Each volunteer is subject to a police check, interview and reference check before they participate as a leader on a camp or day activity.

ERC SA also has comprehensive policies on child protection, approved activities, supervision ratios, physical presence and contact, transport and first aid. These policies are available for your information.

Weatpac Community idol 2009

National winners of the 2009
Westpac Community Idol





Aims and Objectives of ERC (S.A.) Inc.

ERC SA aims to:

- Provide children and young people with a safe environment based on friendship, trust and empowerment
- Provide an environment which is inclusive, welcoming and supportive
- Encourage children, young people and their families to engage in their communities e.g. school, family support agencies
- Provide children, young people and their families with much needed respite
- Support families in seeking and achieving a loving and productive family environment
- Equip children, young people and their families with tools to address opportunities and issues associated with their disadvantage
- Provide children and their families with an environment that is conducive to their development
- Provide young adults with the opportunity to volunteer and gain experience in the human services sector
- Provide a high standard of care to children, young people and their families and to volunteers
- Provide ongoing support throughout the year
- Recognise the importance of family and agency partnership

We do this by:

- Promoting positive concepts of self worth through the challenges and involvement in relationships and activities
- Ensuring that all volunteers receive adequate training, reference checks and supervision to optimise the experience of camp for all involved
- Providing parents with the opportunity to access information on support on parenting
- Having one to one ratios on all camps and activities
- Adhering to high standards of care as demonstrated throughout our policy and operation manuals
- By reflecting on our lives through focusing on the actions of Edmund rice
- Ensuring the suitability of activities, facilities and activity facilitators to meet the needs of the children, young people and their families
- Providing positive role models
- Promoting healthy lifestyle practices through policy such as sun smart, healthy eating and relevant educational experiences
- Increasing the opportunities for families to access support services that are available within the community



Our Services

The Camps, Day Activities and Programs provided by ERC SA currently are:

Co-Ed camps for children aged 5-9 years are usually held in mid January annually (usually 2 camps held at Warradale Urban Campsite). Camp activities include swimming, team games, craft, sports, cooking, walking, and external workshops. There are approximately 20 places available for children on each camp, and the same number for leaders on each camp

Co-Ed camps for children aged 9-11 years are usually held in mid January annually (usually 2 camps held at Rostrevor Boarding House). Camp activities include swimming, team games, craft, sports, cooking, walking, and external workshops. There are approximately 20 places available for children on each camp, and the same number for leaders on each camp

Boys Camps for boys aged 11-15 years are usually held in April (1 camp) and September/October school holidays annually (1 camp). The camps are based on challenge, self development and teamwork. There are approximately 10-20 places available for boys and an equal number for leaders on each camp offered.

Girls Camps for girls aged 11-15 years are usually held in April (1 camp) and September/October school holidays annually (1 camp). The camp is based on challenge, self development and teamwork. There are approximately 10-20 places available for girls and an equal number for leaders on each camp offered.

Mini Camps are usually held at various times throughout the year (usually offered over weekends from Friday evening through to Sunday afternoon). These camps are for a variety of different target groups including; general respite, siblings (targeting those that don't reside together); Young parents and their children, Indigenous Australians, Multicultural camp (for children from refugee or other various cultural backgrounds) and Grandparents and their grandchildren in their care.

Soft Top Camps are very similar to our mini camps, except we sleep in tents and have an emphasis on the outdoors for these camps. They are also aimed at varying target groups.

Family Camps are usually held in July annually. The camps enable the family unit to holiday together as well as allow parents to attend workshops such as resolving family conflict, drug and alcohol education and service descriptions while their children participate in recreational activities such as, craft, bush walking and sports.

Other Camps, Retreats & Group Bookings

If you have a group that you would like us to provide a camp or retreat for we can plan, facilitate & evaluate one for you. Contact us to discuss how best to meet your needs, cost, staffing and planning.

Families Christmas Party is held in December and is open to all our volunteers, clients, and their families. There are Christmas crafts, singing, games, sports, food, drinks, presents and also special guests.

Training services

We pride ourselves in being leaders in trainings for and with children, young people, families as well as organizations, individuals and agencies in the community. Currently the trainings we offer are; Child Safe Environments (formally called Mandatory Notification), Protective Behaviors, Change Management, Team Building, and Basic Food Handling. The best bit is that all the funds raised through our trainings go towards providing our other services towards children, young people, volunteers and families. **Contact us to discuss your training needs and how best to meet them.**



Client Nominations/ Referrals

We accept nominations/referrals for children, young people and families on an on-going basis for our services. An agency referrals guide can be obtained by contacting the office. Alternatively, the Client Nomination Form can be downloaded from our website www.eddiericecamps.org.au in the downloads section. There are many other resources available including an agencies referral guide, if you are interested in obtaining a copy please contact us.

The benefits of nominating children and young people is that once they have had their initial intake they are added onto our database so that the families / Children and young people are sent information to be kept informed of services that they are eligible for on an on-going basis. Children and/or families can nominate themselves for our services or agencies are welcome to nominate clients on their behalf.

We have two main **target groups**; both groups come from all over Adelaide:

Clients: Children, Young People & Families experiencing some form of disadvantage. Participants are selected on a priority of needs basis at the Staff / Boards discretion. Clients sometimes have one or a range of issues effecting their lives, this encompasses; poverty, socio-economic / low income, rural / social isolation, academic / social difficulties, domestic violence, under / unemployment, single parent, foster care, adoption, Guardianship of the Minister, custody battles, eating disorders, disabilities, crisis, drug & alcohol, emotional / communication difficulties, depression, learning delays, ADHD, loss of a loved one, grief and loss, traumatic incidents, temporary visa, refugee status, various cultural issues, chronic or terminal illness and / or other mental health issues.

Volunteers: Primarily young people aged 16-25 years, providing them with opportunities to volunteer, gain experience, training and leadership skills

Volunteer Applications

We accept applications for volunteers over 16 years of age, and from families on an on-going basis for our services. Volunteer positions include the following areas; Administration, Camps, Activity Days, Mentors, Trainers, Bus drivers, Cooks, Kitchen Hands, First Aid Officers, Fundraisers and Committee members. A volunteer online application form can be found on the home page of our website, or you can download a form from the website to email or post to us. Volunteers are required to undergo police and reference checks prior to undertaking work with us, at the initial interview forms will be given for the applicant to complete.

At present there are approximately 300-400 people that volunteer for the ERC SA directly on committees, management, camps, day activities, office based administration and other areas. We also take on students for placements and work experience on an on-going basis. Contact us to discuss options for placements.



Management Structure

Edmund Rice Camps SA Inc. is managed by a Board of management, the Board meets once a month for a general meeting, while various sub committees of the board also meet in periods between meetings.

Our Executive Officer is Melanie Tate. Melanie completed a Bachelor of Social Science Degree in 2002 and has worked in the areas of child and family welfare, high risk adolescent crisis management, family violence and youth homelessness prevention. Melanie was appointed to the role of executive officer of Edmund Rice Camps in December 2003. Prior to this appointment, Melanie worked for community access services, as a team leader. We also have three other staff who are involved in planning and coordinating the organization's activities. Our Business Development Coordinator, Mrs Janine Ashwell is responsible for fundraising, training services, and finances. Ms Natalie King is our Camps & Youth Coordinator and is in charge of maintaining our client intake and planning our camps and activity days. Ms Stephanie Bittoto works as our Youth Programs Coordinator responsible for a new after school program. Stephanie is also responsible for the intake and assessment of our volunteers.

Resources and Sponsors

Edmund Rice Camps relies heavily on the Christian Brothers, fundraising, donations and grants, as well as our fee based services such as trainings. Fee based services, fundraising and donations assist us with resources, food, accommodation and applying minimal cost to participants.

As an autonomous body, ERC is dependent on funding assistance from the community, the generosity of volunteers and support from the local community cannot be underestimated, however, without continual funding our services are unable to develop further programs to meet the demands faced day to day in the South Australian Community.

Currently, our main sources of income is as follows;

Christian Brothers (35%) #
Fundraising & Grants (36%) +
Camps & Activities Fees (17%) ^
Donations (9%) *

The Holy Spirit Province administered by a Leadership Team provides a grant which is dispersed on a monthly basis in order to provide steady cash flow to the Edmund Rice Camps (SA) Inc.

+ Fundraising is conducted by Edmund Rice Camps (SA) Inc, consisting of a series of social activities and applications for grants.

^ Camps and Activities Fees are paid by only those families and agencies that can afford the fees, often fees are heavily reduced or completely funded by ERC to enable children to attend camps

* Donations mainly come from the three Christian Brother's Schools in South Australia - CBC Adelaide, Rostrevor College, St Paul's College, via the students who raise funds through their own efforts by conducting a series of fundraising activities

We rely on receiving several grants and monetary donations that have enabled us to provide services to children, young people and families. Our heartfelt thank you to our supporters:

- **Adelaide Bank Charitable Foundation**
- **Australian Hotels Association**
- **ANZ Staff Foundation**
- **City of West Torrens**
- **CMV Foundation**
- **Community Benefit SA**
- **Commonwealth Staff Community Fund**
- **Coopers Foundation**
- **Ian Potter Foundation**
- **Inger Rice Foundation**
- **Lions Club**
- **Mantana Foundation for Young People**
- **Mazda Foundation**
- **Morialta Trust**
- **Office for Volunteers**
- **Office for Sports & Rec – ‘Move It’**
- **Pickard Foundation**
- **Premiers Community Initiative Fund**
- **Scanlon Foundation**
- **Sister Of Charity**
- **Sunshine Foundation**
- **St George Foundation**
- **The Marian & E.H. Flack Trust**
- **The Trust Foundation**
- **United Way Foundation**
- **Variety Club SA**
- **Woolworths**

Donations

There are a range of ways to donate to Edmund Rice Camps, details of these including online processes can be found on our website www.eddiericecamps.org.au on the ‘how you can help us’ page. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Become a Hero.... Sponsor ERC

You can sponsor Edmund Rice Camps (SA) Inc through our ‘Heroes’ packages. These packages range in prices and benefits for sponsors. They are available on our website in the downloads section or contact us to have one sent to you.

Keep up to date with what’s happening

Become a member of Edmund Rice Camps, you can obtain membership forms by contacting us. Corporate membership for a year is \$100.00 which equates to under a \$2.00 a week, individual membership is only \$20.00 which goes a long way to helping us to continue operating. You will also be playing a part in helping us to continue providing our services. If you care about children, young people and families, then sign up and become a member or donate today!!!

If you become a member you will be kept up to date via our quarterly newsletters, members are entitled to vote at the annual general meeting and become committee members where you have the opportunity to feed into the direction and process of the ERC. If membership does not appeal to you then you can gain access to our regular emails, including camp registration and nomination dates by emailing eddie@eddiericecamps.org.au and asking to be added to our email list.

You can also now receive RSS Feeds, Facebook or Twitter alerts, simply head to our website www.eddiericecamps.org.au and subscribe to the method of choice by selecting the appropriate button on the homepage.

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