



COVER SHEET FOR SUBMISSIONS GREEN ARMY PROGRAMEM – DRAFT STATEMENT OF REQUIREMENTS

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HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS

Please return the cover sheet and your submission by email (preferred option) or post to the address below.

Email: greenarmy@environment.gov.au

Post: The Green Army
The Department of the Environment
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA, ACT 2601

*** If you wish for only parts of your submission to be treated as confidential, it would be appreciated if you could provide the confidential parts of your submission as a separate document.**

For further information, please call 1800 780 730.



Response to Green Army Draft Statement

The Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material (AICCM) is the peak professional body representing cultural heritage conservators and allied professionals in this country. AICCM represents professional employed by museums, libraries, archives and galleries as well as professionals in private practice. The AICCM provides supports professionals with specialist cultural materials preservation skills and knowledge and research in such diverse areas as marine archaeology, Indigenous rock art, outdoor sculpture, manuscripts, paintings etc.

AICCM welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Green Army and we applaud the effort by the Green Army to include youth in programs emphasising the long-term stewardship of our shared environmental, social and cultural resources. However, the AICCM brings to your attention three key concerns with the Green Army Policy Document as it currently stands. These concerns regard cultural heritage issues (ref. lines (310-) 322 -326). They are:

- The assessment and evaluation of works to be undertaken by Green Army participants.
- The provision of expert advice, monitoring and evaluation of projects.
- The accreditation of Green Army participants.

Assessment and evaluation of works to be undertaken

1. In reference to sections (g.) 'Cultural heritage restoration' (line 323), and (j.) 'restoration of heritage gardens or landscapes' (line 326), the AICCM notes that restoration involves a complex set of skills and decisions guided by documents including The Burra Charter 1979-2013, the AICCM code of ethics and practice (updated 2002), and Significance 2.0: a guide to assessing the significance of collections (2009-2010). Many of the skills involved in restoration require professional training and cultural heritage can be irreversibly damaged by inappropriate decision making and intervention. Heritage sites may also involve moveable and intangible heritage aspects, and this is not clearly identified in the SOR.

Recommendation

AICCM recommends that involvement by relevant qualified heritage professionals be included as part of discussions between Project Sponsor and Service Provider when determining the scope of any project. This may include expertise in significance assessment, treatment requirement and longer term preventive conservation and interpretation approaches.

Expert advice, monitoring and evaluation of projects

2. Consideration must be given to ensuring that cultural heritage restoration projects are supervised by a professional conservator - i.e. those identified as professional members of the AICCM. Professional members of the AICCM are those conservators who have met benchmarks in their conservation practice (<http://www.aiccm.org.au/who-we-are/professional->

[membership](#)). This professional membership system is the current form of professional 'accreditation' for conservators in Australia and is managed by the AICCM.

3. Section 2.13.2 - Key Performance indicators indicate project 'Quality' (lines 642-644) is measured by feedback from Project Sponsors and participants and team supervisors regarding the quality of services delivered. Again, for Cultural Heritage Restoration it may be necessary to incorporate professional input into project designs and management to ensure Quality is met in regard to compliance with the best practice reference documents outlined in paragraph 1 above.

Recommendation

That heritage and cultural materials conservation specialists are involved in key stages throughout the proposal, monitoring and evaluation stages of the projects.

Accreditation of Green Army participants

4. Section 2.7 'Training' in lines 424 – 426 outlines the aim that 'a key element of the programme is the provision of opportunities for vocationally oriented accredited training, delivered by a RTO under the Australian Qualifications network". Lines 437-440 outline the aim for this training towards a certificate I or certificate II, or skill sets from a certificate III, IV, Diploma or advanced Diploma. In relation to Cultural Heritage Restoration, accredited training at this level appears problematic. Currently, professional conservation education is internationally recognised at a Masters level, and conservation technician or conservation assistant at a Bachelor level. It must be understood that accreditation via the Green Army program would not be accepted as industry standard nor recognised within the cultural heritage industry as being sufficient training to work unsupervised as a heritage restorer.

Recommendation

There is the opportunity to provide Green Army program participants with a broad industry knowledge as part of their training, including subjects in heritage ethics, significance evaluation, and preventive conservation measures, however, it must be clear that these qualifications (from Cert 1 to Diploma) are insufficient to qualify as a cultural heritage technician or professional.

Thank you again for the opportunity to respond to the Green Army Draft Statement.

The AICCM Executive