



MEDIA STATEMENT

Outward Bound Australia

24 January 2018

14:30

Summit to Sea participant being assessed after fall near Jackson's Crossing Track in Victoria.

Issued by Alex Green, CEO of Outward Bound Australia

"A group of 10 participants in Outward Bound Australia's Summit to Sea program were in Gippsland, Victoria near Jackson Crossing Track as part of their 26 day outdoor education expedition."

"A group of 4 male participants left the Outward Bound Australia camp at approximately 11pm on 23 January 2018, against instructions and without the knowledge of Outward Bound Australia staff, to go for a walk and explore the surrounding area."

"One member of the group, a 23 year old male, fell into a sinkhole. Another participant alerted the Outward Bound team who followed procedures, assessed the situation then alerted Rescue services at 12:30am on 24 January 2018"

"The man was alert and oriented and reported pain in his back. An ambulance and local CFA crew arrived on site at approximately 2:00am"

"Assisted by Outward Bound Australia staff, a Paramedic descended to the man for assessment and treatment. The Paramedic stayed with the man until Melbourne based Rescue Services arrived at the scene at around 6am."

"At 8:30am, the man was successfully recovered from the sinkhole and transported off site by ambulance for further assessment and treatment. He has since been airlifted to The Royal Melbourne Hospital."

"The family of the participant have been informed and the 23 year old has since spoken directly with them."

"The other three males directly involved in the incident are safe and have been re-united with their camp group where they will receive support and care."



“Whilst the welfare of the young man is our focus, Outward Bound is also supporting the Summit to Sea group and their families as well as affected Outward Bound staff.”

“I am thankful that the processes and procedures that OBA developed over 60 years were followed once the incident occurred and any harm has been minimised.”

“I’d like to express my gratitude and thanks to all involved in the rescue operation, local Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Police Rescue and Ambulance Services.”

- Ends -

For further information contact

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