

Sean McQueen

From: Mary Stavropoulos
Sent: Monday, 14 September 2020 1:12 PM
To: Stewart White; Laureen Harrison; Sean McQueen
Cc: Matthew Bye
Subject: CM: FW: Recognition and Restoration of Scout and Guide Callsigns - Amateur Radio Callsign Template [SEC=OFFICIAL]

FYI

From: Mary Stavropoulos
Sent: Monday, 14 September 2020 1:10 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Nicholas Brody <Nicholas.Brody@acma.gov.au>; Patrick Emery <Patrick.Emery@acma.gov.au>; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Recognition and Restoration of Scout and Guide Callsigns - Amateur Radio Callsign Template [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email regarding our recent changes to the amateur call sign template and your request for continued special recognition for Girl Guides and Scouts as provided under the previous arrangements.

We have considered your request and decided to reserve the call signs VKnGGA – VKnGGZ for Girl Guides and VKnSAA – VKnSDZ for Scouts. We have discussed our decision with the Australian Maritime College (AMC) and updated the call sign template accordingly.

The AMC will ensure that changes are made to its systems to reflect these arrangements. In order to confirm eligibility for these call signs, the AMC will require future applications from Girl Guide or Scout associations to be accompanied by an authorising letter from the relevant association.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss further.

Regards,
Mary

Mary Stavropoulos
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 24 August 2020 1:17 PM

To: Radcoms Licensing <radcomslicensing@acma.gov.au>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Recognition and Restoration of Scout and Guide Callsigns - Amateur Radio Callsign Template

Dear Radcoms Licensing Team,

I refer to recent communications between [REDACTED] (Scouts Victoria) and Laureen Harrison (Senior Licensing Officer, Licence Allocation Section), the most recent being 6 August 2020. I also understand several phone calls have been made to both AMC and ACMA offices. Our concern relates to an apparent oversight in administration of the new Amateur Radio Callsign template, administered by Australian Maritime Collage and approved by Australian Communications and Media Authority.

Scouts Australia and Girl Guide Australia have been previously recognised by the ACMA in the form of a special callsign blocks (VKnGGA-VKnGGZ and VKnSAA – VKnSDZ) in the callsign templates. These well-known callsign blocks have historic context dating back to when the Australian Government departments and subsequent agencies (including ACMA's predecessors SMA and DOC) administered and allocated amateur radio callsigns. This recognition specifically identified callsign blocks VKnGGA - VKnGGZ for Girl Guides Australia and VKnSAA – VKnSDZ for Scouts Australia. I have provided two examples of the established callsign template. The first dating back to December 2011 (WIA documentation) and the second as recently as 24 February 2020 (AMC documentation).

This special recognition and related call signs help amateur operators both in Australia and World Wide to recognise the young voices heard are Girl Guides and Scouts undertaking training and activities under the support and supervision of licenced operators. It should be noted that this amateur radio activity is totally compatible with the established Club Station licence conditions in Australia.

In addition to multiple smaller training and activity events, each year over 10,000 Scout and Guides in Australia join with over a million other Scouts and Girl Guides around the world participate in the international Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) conducted on the 3rd weekend in October. This year will mark the 63rd JOTA and is combined with the 24th Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI).

On behalf of Scouts and Girl Guides around Australia I request the following continuation of previous policy and practices including:

- recognition of the role Scouts and Girl Guides play in amateur radio training and promotion of the hobby
- ongoing recognition that training young people in amateur radio is supportive of Government STEM policies
- callsign block conventions regarding Scout and Girl Guides be retained.

We encourage ACMA and ACM to only allocate the VKnGGA – VKnGGZ and VKnSAA – VKnSDZ blocks to when applications are accompanied by an authorising letter from the relevant Scout or Girl Guide Association(s).

I look forward to your consideration of this matter and response.

Yours sincerely



W: <http://www.sresu.asn.au/>



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