

St Philips College Central Australian Outback Adventure – Full Risk Assessment (DRAFT)

Risk Scale: 1 = Very Low | 5 = Very High

A. Environmental & Weather Risks

Hazard	Description	L	C	Rating	Controls
Dehydration	Hot, dry climate; long walks & outdoor activities	4	4	16	Mandatory water bottles; scheduled breaks.
Heat Exhaustion / Heat Stroke	Exposure to intense heat	3	5	15	Shade, avoid midday heat, monitoring.
Sunburn	High UV exposure	4	3	12	Sunscreen, hats, long sleeves.

B. Adventure Activities – Rockwall Climbing

Hazard	Description	L	C	Rating	Controls
Falls / Injury	Slips, incorrect harness use	2	4	8	Instructor supervision, gear checks.
Equipment Failure	Rope or harness issues	1	5	5	Regular maintenance and checks.

B. Adventure Activities – Mountain Biking

Hazard	Description	L	C	Rating	Controls
Falls / Collisions	Uneven terrain	3	4	12	Helmets, ride within ability.
Mechanical Failure	Chain/brake issues	2	4	8	Pre-ride inspections.
Heat / Dehydration	Hot weather during activity	3	4	12	Hydration breaks.

C. Travel & Accommodation – Bus & Vehicle Travel

Hazard	Description	L	C	Rating	Controls
Road Accidents	Highway travel risks	2	5	10	Licensed drivers, seatbelts.
Breakdowns / Heat Risk	Bus failure in heat	2	4	8	Air-conditioned buses, emergency water.

C. Travel & Accommodation – Homestays (including Child Protection)

Hazard	Description	L	C	Rating	Controls
General Injury	Household hazards	2	3	6	Homes inspected by staff.
Transport with Host Families	Private vehicles	2	4	8	Seatbelts, approved hosts.
Child Protection Risk	Unsafe adult interactions	1-2	5	5-10	All adults 18+ must have Ochre Card; homes visited by RS staff.
Lack of Access to Support	Unsure who to contact	2	4	8	Students have 24/7 access to staff.
Medical Mismanagement	Families unaware of allergies	2	4	8	Families briefed on medical info.
Expectations Misunderstood	Cultural/house rule issues	2	3	6	Families briefed; student code of conduct.

D. Outdoor Education – Walking & Hiking

Hazard	Description	L	C	Rating	Controls
Falls / Slips	Uneven rocky terrain	3	4	12	Proper footwear, supervision.
Getting Lost	Student separates from group	2	4	8	Buddy system, roll calls.
Heat / Dehydration	Exposure during hikes	4	4	16	Water schedule, shade breaks.

D. Outdoor Education – Camping

Hazard	Description	L	C	Rating	Controls
Snake/Spider Risks	Night wildlife hazard	2	4	8	Tent checks, closed shoes.
Cold/Heat Exposure	Overnight temperature shifts	3	3	9	Appropriate gear.

Fire/Cooking Risks	Burns, smoke	2	3	6	Supervised cooking.
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E. Wildlife – Desert Park & Reptile Centre

Hazard	Description	L	C	Rating	Controls
Bites / Scratches	Animal interaction	2	4	8	Follow staff instructions.
Allergic Reactions	Animal/environment exposure	2	3	6	Medical info collected.

E. Wildlife – General Snake/Spider Risk

Hazard	Description	L	C	Rating	Controls
Venomous Bite	Bushland areas	1-2	5	5-10	Stay on tracks; first aid trained staff.

F. Water Activities – Swimming

Hazard	Description	L	C	Rating	Controls
Drowning	Deep water risk	1-2	5	5-10	Lifeguards, defined zones.
Cold Shock	Cold water at Ormiston	2	3	6	Slow entry.
Slippery Rocks	Entry/exit injuries	3	3	9	Supervision, safe entry points.

G. General Health & Safety

Hazard	Description	L	C	Rating	Controls
Choking While Eating	Fast eating, allergies	2	3	6	Supervision, medical plans.
Fatigue	Busy schedule + heat	3	3	9	Rest periods, hydration.

ADDITIONAL GENERAL SAFETY MEASURES

Supervision & Communication

- Maintain required teacher–student ratios.
- All staff have mobile phones and emergency contacts.

- Satellite phone for remote areas (if required).
- Clear behaviour expectations reviewed daily.

First Aid

- At least one staff member with advanced first-aid training.
- First-aid kits accessible at all activities.
- Known medical conditions discussed prior to trip.
- Emergency vehicle available at all times

Emergency Plans

- Staff familiar with nearest health facilities.
- Clear plan for snakebite, dehydration, severe falls, and allergic reactions.
- Student medication access ensured.
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Student Preparation

- Pre-trip briefing on safety, hydration, clothing, wildlife, heat management.
- Mandatory packing list: hat, water bottle, sturdy shoes, sunscreen, long pants for biking.