

April 14<sup>th</sup> 2021



## Next step in the evolution of Pony Club coaching

Pony Club Australia has developed a new education and training course for Preliminary coaches.

The new PCANCAS Preliminary Coach course is aligned with the PCA rider syllabus and brings together a range of material produced since the launch of the new PCA rider syllabus in September 2019.

The new Course Outline has been structured around the format used by the Australian Skills Quality Authority and has been developed in association with state Pony Club Association representatives working on the Pony Club Australia Coaching Advisory Council.

The [course outline available on the PCA website](#) will guide candidates on the course content and assessment requirements.

PCA recognises that horse riding is a unique sport that involves teaching riders, training horses and teaching riders how to train and care for horses. Pony Club coaches require a broad skill set to teach riders pursuing a large number of different horse sports, from beginners to high level competitors, and in a group teaching environment. They need to manage the physical and mental safety of riders as well as horses.

To help Pony Club coaches meet these challenges with confidence and enthusiasm, the Preliminary Coach course includes resources adapted from Sport Australia, such as teaching older riders and teaching indigenous riders. It also includes recent advances in veterinary understandings of horses' digestive systems and how horses express pain or comfort.

"We are confident that our new Preliminary Coach course will increase the effectiveness of coaches, the performance of riders and the welfare of horses around Australia", PCA Participation and Development Manager Dr Kirrilly Thompson said.

The mentor system, and coach networks at the zone and state level, are important parts to support PCANCAS candidates.

"Pony Club is the grass roots of equestrian sport in Australia and our coaches are central to the aims of Pony Club to develop safe and competent riders who are also knowledgeable horse people", Kirrilly said.

PCA is increasing the amount of online education content for riders and coaches to make it available to our members across Australia and work is in progress on the PCANCAS Level 1 Coach course. Kirrilly explained that "COVID19 has made the need for flexibility content delivery apparent, but the mentor system, and coach networks at the zone and state level, will always remain important parts of the support we provide to PCANCAS candidates".

---

We are grateful for the support of national sponsors:



The Australian Government through Sport Australia recognises Pony Club Australia to develop Pony Club in Australia. The financial support of Sport Australia is gratefully acknowledged.

April 14<sup>th</sup> 2021



**More information:**

Dr Kirrilly Thompson  
Participation and Development Manager  
M: 0413 616 650  
E: [participation@ponyclubaustralia.com.au](mailto:participation@ponyclubaustralia.com.au)

Bronwyn Wheatley  
Marketing and Development Officer, Pony Club Australia  
M: 0423 823 190  
E: [marketing@ponyclubaustralia.com.au](mailto:marketing@ponyclubaustralia.com.au)

[www.ponyclubaustralia.com.au](http://www.ponyclubaustralia.com.au)

---

We are grateful for the support of national sponsors:



The Australian Government through Sport Australia recognises Pony Club Australia to develop Pony Club in Australia. The financial support of Sport Australia is gratefully acknowledged.