



RAD Australia Action Statement Regarding the 2020 Isobel Anderson Memorial Awards and the Joan and Monica Halliday Memorial Awards on Sunday 15 March 2020.

Issued Friday 13 March 2020 – 2pm

Safeguarding the safety and wellbeing of our staff, Members and students is paramount for RAD Australia which is why we have taken the decision today to postpone the 2020 Isobel Anderson Memorial Awards and the Joan and Monica Halliday Memorial Awards on Sunday 15 March whilst we take some time to pause and consider the wider implications of public gatherings during the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19). This event is being evaluated in the context of the escalation of cases and public exposure risks in New South Wales in particular and the, as yet unknown, scale and impact of this situation.

We have put in place a firm policy to proactively safeguard staff, Members and students generally across our activities but we continue to assess those activities on a case by case basis recognising that situations may differ from day to day and state to state.

At this time we are aware of evolving advice to government issued today by Australia's Chief Medical Officer, regarding mass gatherings at events and note that whilst this is not at this stage a definitive instruction from government, we do feel it would be ill advised to continue with the event as scheduled.

Whilst there is no immediate known risk to our staff, Members and students, we feel a weight of responsibility to safeguard our community and to consider seeking alternative options where possible to continue to deliver our activities in relation to student events for the duration of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

We look forward to sharing more news on this important event in our calendar shortly and are committed to considering the status of future events each in their own context, at a time more suited to the individual event.