What SA young people had to say about the Award.

Based on an independent study conducted by Quest Research in 2014

What the President’s Award can offer

The Award offers young people skills, experience and a credible reference with evidence that a young person has shown themselves willing to prepare themselves for a purposeful future by investing in their own development.

Employers look for skills and experience, but ‘formal education’ is not a substitute for skills and schooling is not a reliable signal of capabilities.*

“"The Award develops each individual uniquely with achievements that cannot be measured on paper. It teaches real-life skills like work experience, interpersonal expertise and self-discipline”

Azhar Booley

It is widely acknowledged that the completion of one or more levels of the Award suggests to an employer or a scholarship adjudicator that the individual has gone beyond the minimum in preparing themselves for the world of work and further learning, providing greater insight into the individuals character and capacity to achieve in whatever circumstances they find themselves in.


Would recommend the Award 97%
Increased awareness of others needs 95%
Learnt to value diversity 95%
Learnt to work with other people 94%
Learnt to value perseverance 94%
Something happened on this trip that gave me new perspectives about myself and how I see the world. My world is going to be far bigger than Khayalitsha. I have my goals and I am going to achieve them.

The President’s Award creates opportunities for young people to develop their character, discover their purpose and determine their futures.

The Award is designed to reward perseverance and inspire individual action through challenging, but non-competitive activities.

Wherever you are in the world, the Award requires that participants commit to completing 4 sections (5 sections at the Gold Level) over a minimum time period.

The Award brings together practical experiences and life skills, it builds confidence, encourages physical health and recreation; and motivates young people to engage with their communities.

“I was good at academics and I probably would have done little else at school. The Award challenged me to stretch myself ... and gave me the push I needed to broaden my interests, with truly life-changing results”.

Christopher McConnachie

“The Award allows you to discover your qualities and capabilities as a person. I am a much more empowered individual with self-confidence and leadership skills to meet any new challenge or opportunity that may come my way”.

Maureen Pennels