



Annual Child Safety Statement of Compliance

Commitment to child safety

The Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) is committed to maintaining a positive and proactive culture to support child safety. We endeavour to ensure children and young people feel safe, supported, and respected, and that their rights, needs, and interests are met.

DAFF understands it is a shared responsibility between the department and its employees to provide a safe environment to protect and safeguard children and young people by:

- Implementing policies and procedures that support protecting children and young people.
- Ensuring all staff are aware and follow the policies and procedures developed by the Department.
- Regular review of all child safety related risks and hazards to ensure they remain current and controls effective.
- Commitment to managing all child safety incidents efficient and effectively.
- Complying with the requirements of the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework (the Framework)
- Adoption and implementation of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (the National Principles).

Department's interaction with children and young people

The department's interaction with children and young people, whilst minimal, do includesome activities that directly or occasionally involve children and young people. These include:

Direct

- Departmental endorsed events, stalls and exhibitions whereby children and young people may visit departmental stands, displays and booths.
- Departmental endorsed events whereby children and young people may visit departmental premises.
- Parents occasionally bring children and young people onto departmental premises for short periods while working. For example, to use the carers room between end of school hours and end of work hours.
- Education program for younger children on the basics of biosecurity.
- School/educational institution visits, community events and expos to discuss departmental work.

Occasional

- Departmental staff are located at various locations including airports, cruise ship terminals and passenger clearances to assess biohazard or human health risks of incoming travellers. Children and young people may be present during assessments.

- ABARES (Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences) Regional Survey Collectors conduct face to face interviews with farmers on the farm premises. Children and young people may be present during interviews.
- On occasions departmental staff participate in search warrants and/or take statements offsite. Children and young people may be present during these activities.
- Departmental staff may have indirect contact with children and young people whilst assisting with security implications or employees working arrangements.
- Christmas parties and team building events where children and young people may attend.
- The department provides grants to state farming bodies to sponsor primary school visits to farms and other primary production worksites to learn about agriculture production, sustainability practices and land stewardship. Departmental activity is limited to development of the grant and does not have direct contact with children and young people.
- Child protection risks related to activities funded by overseas development assistance (ODA) funds managed by the department.

Child safety risk assessment and mitigation

The department completed its annual child safe risk assessment review on 3 October 2023. The assessment determined our level of risk to be low.

The key risk to child safety identified in the risk assessment is injury to a child whilst involved in any of the above noted activities. The consequences include:

- Physical injury or abuse
- Psychological/emotional abuse
- Neglect
- Lack of cultural respect, racism, or other vilification
- Exposing child to or involving them in sexual acts, direct or indirect sexual exploitation and/or grooming
- Reputational damage
- Other crimes committed.

The department has undertaken measures to address and mitigate these risks.

Compliance with the Framework and future improvements

There are four core requirements under the Framework:

1. Undertake risk assessments annually in relation to activities of the entity, to identify the level of responsibility for, and contact with, children, evaluate risks to child safety, and put in place appropriate strategies to manage identified risks.
2. Establish and maintain a system of training and compliance, to make staff aware of, and comply with, the Framework and relevant legislation, including Working with Children Checks (WWCCs) / Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) Checks and mandatory reporting requirements.
3. Adopt and implement the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

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4. Publish an annual statement of compliance with the Framework, including an overview of the entity's child safety risk assessment (conducted under Requirement 1).

The department is committed to exercising continuous efforts to be a child safe organisation through implementation of the Framework. The department has demonstrated compliance with Requirements 1 and 4 of the Framework by completing the 2023 Annual Risk Assessment and publishing its Annual Child Safety Statement of Compliance on the department's internet page.

To ensure compliance with Requirement 2 and 3 of the Framework, the department will continue to undertake the following child safety measures and activities:


- Development of updated policy for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in line with the Framework
- Provide child safety training to staff who either work directly with children and young people or may have contact with children and young people as part of their work.
- Review current recruitment processes for child- related positions.
- Establish a compliance system that:
 - Formally records which positions and staff require Working with Children Checks (WWCC) or Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) Checks and regularly review position requirements
 - Monitor staff adherence to training and WWCC or WWVP Check requirements.
 - Monitor breaches of the Framework
 - Regularly review and update child-safety related policies and procedures.
- Run a communication program that informs staff of the following:
 - The Framework as a whole-of-government policy
 - The department's policies in relation to child safety
 - Training and compliance requirements.

Application to funded third parties.

The department provides grants to state farming bodies to sponsor primary school visits to farms and other primary production worksites to learn about agriculture production, sustainability practices and land stewardship.

The grant agreement for this program includes child safety clauses in accordance with the procurement and grant clause banks.

Signature



Adam Fennessy PSM

Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry