



Child Safety for DSS funded organisations

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework?

The [Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse](#) (Royal Commission) found that organisations need to provide an environment where children feel (and are) safe, protected and respected. Organisations also need to make sure staff and volunteers have the necessary skills, confidence and knowledge to keep children safe.

In response to the findings, the Australian Government introduced the [Commonwealth Child Safe Framework](#) (the Framework). The Framework sets out the minimum standards for creating and embedding a child safe culture and practices in Commonwealth entities. This includes an expectation that Commonwealth entities apply child safe measures to third parties, engaged through a grant or procurement arrangement. Organisations are not required to meet the requirements of the Framework.

What is a child safe culture?

Child safe cultures prioritise the safety and wellbeing of a child or young person under 18 years of age. It is an environment where children's safety and wellbeing is the centre of thought, values and actions. Creating a child safe culture is an ongoing process that needs to be embedded at all levels of an organisation. The [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#) show how organisations can create and maintain child safe cultures.

What are the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations?

The ten [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#) (National Principles) drive the implementation of a child safe culture across all sectors engaging with children and young people. The National Principles promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people across Australia and aim to prevent harm and abuse in organisational environments. They include information on how to implement them in practice, through key actions and performance measures.

Why do I need a child safety clause in my grant agreement or contract?

The Department of Social Services (the department) is committed to ensuring that its work, activities, and the activities it funds, do not expose children to abuse or harm. Ensuring all organisations the department funds have a safe environment for children and young people is an important step in acting on the recommendations from the Royal Commission and the Framework. One way the department does this is by implementing child safety clauses across its funded organisations, ensuring safe environments for children. It is just as important that the department's funded organisations also extend the same child safety obligations to subcontracts and secondary subcontracts.

What is the Statement of Compliance?

The Statement of Compliance seeks your confirmation that your organisation, and any staff who engage with children as part of your funded activities, comply with the child safety clause in your grant agreement or contract.

When is the Statement of Compliance due?

Organisations must submit a Statement of Compliance to the department annually. The due date for submissions will be stipulated in your grant agreement or contract. For grants the due date is 31 March of each year for the duration of the grant agreement.

Do I need to submit a Statement of Compliance for each activity I am funded for?

No. A Statement of Compliance form is submitted at the organisation level. In saying this, if your organisation is funded for a grant and procurement, you will be asked to submit two separate Statement of Compliance forms.

If you are funded by another Commonwealth Government department, you may be required to submit a separate annual Statement of Compliance to that department.

Who can sign the Statement of Compliance?

The head of the organisation, chief executive officer or an authorised person in an equivalent position must complete and sign the Statement of Compliance.

What format do I submit the Statement of Compliance?

The Community Grants Hub will issue Statement of Compliance templates to organisations 30-60 days prior to the due date. Organisations are required to submit their Statement of Compliance using the template received. No other format will be accepted.

Do I need to pass on the child safety obligations to subcontractors and secondary subcontractors?

Yes. Where relevant, it is your organisation's responsibility to ensure that all relevant aspects of the funding arrangement are complied with, including when subcontractors or secondary subcontractors are involved. Further information on subcontractor arrangements is on the [National Office for Child Safety](#) website.

What resources are available to organisations?

In collaboration with organisations and state and territory governments, the [National Office for Child Safety](#) has developed [resources](#) and practical tools to help organisations, children, young people, parents and carers.

Additionally, there are various [resources](#) available on the humanrights.gov.au website.