Australian Government
National Capital Authority

Commonwealth Child Safe Framework – Annual Statement of Compliance

Commitment to child safety

The National Capital Authority (NCA) has zero tolerance for inappropriate behaviour towards children and is committed to providing an environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe. The NCA complies with the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework.

Interactions with children and young people

The NCA manages and provides education programs at the National Capital Exhibition, Blundells Cottage, the National Carillon, Anzac Parade, Reconciliation Place and other sites within the National Triangle in Canberra. The NCA is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people who visit these sites or take part in an NCA program.

Staff and volunteers understand the important and specific role they play individually and collectively to ensure the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people taking part in programs provided by the NCA.

Child safety risk assessment

The NCA has adopted and implemented the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and has conducted risk assessments, including reviewing relevant strategies to manage identified risks, for all child related programs and events. The NCA's overarching risk rating is low.

In relation to the planning and presentation of programs for schools and/or families, the NCA:

1. Follows applicable requirements set by the ACT and Commonwealth Governments regarding Child Safety, notably the Commonwealth Child Safety Framework.
2. Ensures all staff and volunteers who present programs to school groups and/or families have undertaken criminal history record checks as part of their initial employment check and hold current ACT *Working with Vulnerable People* cards.
3. Ensures all staff and volunteers have their *Working with Vulnerable People* card available for inspection. If their card cannot be produced, the staff member or volunteer will not be permitted to conduct tours, learning programs or family activities.
4. Ensures an up-to-date register is kept of all *Working with Vulnerable People* cards held by staff and volunteers, which is checked on a regular basis by the Exhibition and Visitor Services Coordinator and volunteer Coordinator.

NCA personnel are required to adhere to the APS Values and Code of Conduct, as well as provide excellent service with regard to visitor experience, safety and wellbeing.

Compliance with the framework

The NCA complies with the requirements of the framework to:

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.
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 NCA is committed to ongoing improvements in safety through implementation of the framework. Over the last 12 months, the NCA has carried out a range of improvements, including, but not limited to:

- development of a Child Safety Policy, which details the responsibilities and obligations of all agency employees, including contractors and volunteers, to ensure child safe practices are in place when interacting with children and young people.
- incorporating the new Commonwealth Child Safety Framework eLearning modules in our child safety training offering.

Over the next 12 months, our key focus areas will be strengthening child safety capability, governance and assurance. This will include further strengthening child safety learning and workforce capability to recognise, report and respond to child safety concerns, and enhancing oversight of child safety controls and treatment actions.