



Commonwealth Child Safe Framework - Statement of Compliance 2023

The National Mental Health Commission is committed to promoting and maintaining a culture that does not permit or tolerate child abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

We recognise the role we play in ensuring the safety of children, particularly when we interact with children and young people via consultation processes and surveys.

For this reason, we are:

- Continuing to embed child safety and wellbeing into our leadership, governance and culture.
- Ensuring staff are aware of and adhere to our child safe practises.
- Ensuring that children and young people involved in our activities know what they can do if they feel unsafe.

We are compliant with the key requirements of the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework. The Commission's Child Safety Policy addresses all relevant National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. We require staff in identified child-safe positions, or undertaking child-related work, to complete Child Safe training modules.

In 2022-23 our key initiatives included:

- Our Child Safety Policy was developed, supported by our senior executive and communicated and promoted to staff.
- Child safe clauses were included as appropriate in grants and procurement documents for third parties.

We have also included the [Commonwealth Child Safe Framework](#) as part of our risk, project and procurement planning processes. This will help us to identify any proposed instances and the level of direct or indirect contact with children across the Commission.



The Commission's current overall risk rating is low. Based on our risk assessment we will be taking action to minimise key risks such as:

- Accidental harm and re-traumatisation of children and young people when participating in our consultations.

The actions we are taking include:

- Improving staff awareness of the Commission's Child Safety Policy and their obligations under the policy.
- Our senior executive continuing to support the application of the Child Safety Policy across the Commission.
- Child-safe by design approach to surveys and workshops that involve children.
- Inclusion of child safe clauses in 3rd party contracts, such as facilitators.
- Ensuring relevant staff complete required training and obtain and/or maintain relevant checks.