2023-24 Commonwealth Child Safe Framework

Annual Statement of Compliance

Our commitment to child safety

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) and the eSafety Commissioner (eSafety) are committed to keeping children and young people free from abuse or harm and ensuring our interactions with them uphold their rights. Part of our remit is to help safeguard all Australians, including children and young people, from abuse or harm that may occur across the communications and media environments for which the ACMA and eSafety have regulatory responsibility.

How we comply with the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework

The ACMA and eSafety meet the requirements of the [Commonwealth Child Safe Framework](). We have developed a Child Safety Policy and undertake annual risk assessments. We have also adopted the [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations]() and seek to create and maintain organisational culture and practices that foster child safety and wellbeing.

Our [Child Safety Policy]() outlines our approach to being a child-safe organisation and informs our leaders and workers about their obligation to act legally and ethically towards children and young people. eSafety has reporting procedures to guide our workers when interacting with children and young people.

In addition to the Policy and reporting procedures, the ACMA and eSafety have general governance arrangements in place that support child safety. These arrangements include ACMA's recruitment, induction and training processes, security and fraud measures, performance management procedures, procurement of goods and services and technical mitigations that monitor the use of ACMA and eSafety ICT assets.

Child Safety Champions have been appointed from within the ACMA and eSafety Executive. The role of the Champions includes raising awareness of and advocating for child safety in the agencies and providing oversight of the annual child safety risk assessment.

The ACMA and eSafety complete an annual risk assessment of our child safety practices. The ACMA and eSafety assess our overall residual risk as low, due to the extensive recruitment, training, technical and procedural controls in place.

How we interact with children in our work

The nature of the ACMA's work means that there is limited and typically infrequent interaction with children.

However, eSafety, through our education and investigation work, does regularly interact with children. In fulfilling our education responsibilities, eSafety workers have infrequent contact with children through our training programs, virtual classrooms and the eSafety Youth Council. Through our investigations into serious online abuse eSafety workers have regular contact with children and young people via phone and email.

Given the nature of this work, eSafety workers engaged in child-related work are mandatory reporters under the New South Wales (NSW) child protection laws. These workers also have an increased chance of encountering child abuse offences that are required to be reported to police under most state and territory criminal laws. These workers are provided specialised training on their roles and responsibilities.
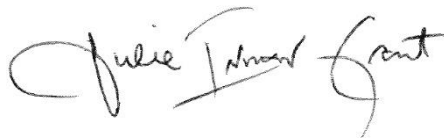
How we monitor our compliance

Our ongoing compliance with the four key requirements of the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework is overseen by appointed Child Safety Champions, the ACMA Audit and Risk Committee and the eSafety Risk and Compliance Committee.

In the next 12 months, the ACMA and eSafety will continue to monitor our child safety risks ensuring continued compliance with the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework.

Members of the public, children, young people, parents, carers, guardians, families and communities should feel confident that the ACMA and eSafety, when working with children or young people, will provide a safe environment in which their rights, needs and interests are upheld.

Nerida O'Loughlin PSM
Chair and Agency Head
Australian Communications and Media Authority
11 October 2024

Julie Inman Grant
eSafety Commissioner
eSafety
8 October 2024