



Annual Statement of Compliance with the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework

Our Commitment

The National Indigenous Australians Agency (the Agency) is committed to protecting and safeguarding children from abuse, neglect and exploitation. This includes the commitment to promoting a child safe culture and providing an environment where children and young people feel and are safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives.

Noting our unique cultural and physical footprint, the Agency pays particular attention to the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds. Every person involved in the Agency has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role they play, individually and collectively, to ensure the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

Our operations and interaction with children

The work of NIAA employees is diverse and at time, they may have incidental or direct contact with children as part of their responsibility to implement the Australian Government's policies and programs to improve the lives of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Instances of direct contact with children is primarily in regional areas where employees may visit public places, communities or the premises of funded grantees.

The Agency also holds consideration to external stakeholders who can be defined as grantees as well as stakeholders driving Government Directed Activities funded by the Agency that may have incidental or direct contact with children. This includes providers under the Remote School Attendance Strategy and early childhood services.

NIAA's child safety risk assessment

In 2026, the Agency conducted a risk assessment to determine the overall child safety risk rating. The rating for the Agency remains at 'medium' for the new reporting period. This is based on the residual likelihood that Agency employees, grantees and grant recipients may not comply with the existing requirements of the policy and controls.

This risk assessment identified both incidental and direct contact with children, primarily as part of the regional NIAA employees' roles and responsibilities. The risk assessment also identified funded grantees as potentially having more contact with vulnerable persons (including children) in communities compared to Agency



employees. The most significant risk remains the failure to comply with Agency policies and contractual requirements.

All Grantees who have a NIAA Grant Agreement (Head Agreement and Project Schedule) must complete a mandatory annual Statement of Compliance with the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework (SoC) to confirm compliance with their obligations for working with vulnerable people (including children) and the Work Health and Safety (WHS) Act. Organisations who do not provide a SoC may be subject to sanctions, including withholding payments and termination of their agreements should they not comply.

In the last reporting period, the agency implemented additional assurance activities to improve grantees complying with SoCs. In addition to WWVP and WHS, providers will now be asked to confirm compliance in the following clauses in their funding agreements:

- Conflict of Interest declarations
- Employment of certain persons
- Subcontracting arrangements, and
- Updating primary contact details.

The Agency monitors provider compliance with Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) requirements and may request evidence of relevant WWVP and Work Health and Safety (WHS) policies, procedures and other compliance artefacts, in addition to annual statements of compliance. All standard NIAA funding agreements (that is, not low-risk letters of offer) include mandatory clauses relating to Working with Vulnerable People, including children, such as accreditation with relevant state and territory regulators (for example, an Ochre Card) and police checks. There are also strict controls on the employment of individuals convicted of serious offences, and the NIAA may direct a provider to remove personnel of concern.

The Agency understands that managing child safety risks is an ongoing process and will continue to regularly analyse and review the measures we have in place to mitigate risks.

NIAA's compliance with the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework

The NIAA remains compliant with all four requirements of the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework (CCSF), the core requirements of which are:

- undertake annual risk assessments
- establish a system of training and compliance
- adopt the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, and
- publish an annual statement of compliance.

The Agency understands the importance of continued education for staff to their obligations. Staff who are identified as needing a WWVP/WWC check are required to complete mandatory training. The Commonwealth Child Safe Framework eLearning course highlights the Framework and relevant legislation.

Additional guidance has been distributed to staff to further embed the national principles for Child Safe Organisations. This guidance includes mandatory reporting obligations, child safety resources and child protection reporting information.



In addition, the agency requires funded organisations to confirm annual compliance with NIAA's mandatory terms for WWVP and WHS.

Child safe initiatives in the reporting year and future activities

- The Agency conducted a review of compliance for recording checks for staff in positions identified as requiring a check in line with State and Territory compliance, including reporting on these checks.
- The Agency will continue working with staff to ensure positions that are identified as requiring a check are compliant and developing system capabilities to allow auditing of checks.
- The Agency will continue to monitor mandatory training compliance to ensure staff are aware of the Framework and relevant legislation.

