

CHAPTER 1

DEFENCE YOUTH PROTECTION RISK MANAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 Defence is committed to ensuring the health, protection and wellbeing of all youth who engage with Defence. Risk management plays an important role in creating a youth safe culture and an environment where people identify, consider and address risks to youth before and as they arise

POLICY INTENT

3.1.2 The intent of this policy is to ensure that all youth protection hazards and risks are identified and effectively managed

3.1.3 Defence youth protection risk management policy is consistent with:

- a. Requirement 1.0 of the [Commonwealth Child Safe Framework \(CCSF\)](#): *Undertake risk assessments annually in relation to activities of each entity, to identify the level of responsibility for and contact with children and young people, evaluate the risk of harm or abuse, and put in place appropriate strategies to manage identified risks*
 - b. Principle 1 of the [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations \(NPCSO\)](#): *Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture*
 - (1) Key Action Area 1.5: *Risk management strategies focus on preventing, identifying and mitigating risks to children and young people*
 - c. Principle 8 of the NPCSO: *Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed*
 - (1) Key Action Area 8.1: *Staff and volunteers identify and mitigate risks in the online and physical environments without compromising a child's right to privacy, access to information, social connections and learning opportunities*
 - (2) Key Action Area 8.3: *Risk management plans consider risks posed by organisational settings, activities, and the physical environment*
- 3.1.4 Other Defence publications which may be relevant to this policy include, but

is not limited to the [Defence Safety Risk Management Policy](#)

POLICY

PROACTIVE YOUTH PROTECTION RISK MANAGEMENT

3.1.5 The purpose of proactive youth protection risk management is to identify potential risks to youth health, protection and wellbeing and to implement action to minimise those risks. Refer to the Guide to Youth Protection Hazards and Mitigation Strategies (annex A) for further information. In assessing risks to youth, consideration must also be given to the developmental stage(s) and behavioural nature of youth.

3.1.6 **Enterprise-level Risk Management.** Head Joint Support Services Division (HJSSD) must ensure that an enterprise-level youth protection risk assessment is undertaken and reviewed annually to assess the minimum reasonably practicable youth protection risk controls (including processes) defined in annex B

3.1.7 **Context-specific Risk Management.** Commanders, managers and supervisors must ensure that all youth protection risks, specific to the context in which youth are engaged are identified and managed in accordance with Service/Group WHSMS risk management policy, applying the following direction:

- a. **Annual Risk Assessment.** A youth protection risk assessment must be undertaken and reviewed annually to assess all context-specific youth protection risks.
- b. **Task/Activity Risk Assessment.** Risks to youth protection must be considered and effectively managed as part of any deliberate and/or immediate risk assessment for a task/activity.
- c. **Risk Control Implementation and Maintenance.** All reasonably practicable youth protection risk controls must be documented in orders, instructions and publications (OIP) as appropriate, implemented and effectively maintained (refer Section 1 Chapter 2).
- d. **Risk Control Awareness.** All personnel, including youth, must be made aware of youth protection risk controls (refer annex B).
- e. **Risk Registers.** All youth protection hazards, risks and issues should be included in the relevant WHS hazard, risk or issues register.

3.1.8 Risk Management Support. For support relating to Defence youth protection risk management policy, commanders, managers and supervisors should engage Joint Support Services Division (JSSD) via the [Defence Youth Protection](#) mailbox or Defence Youth Protection Contact Officer on M: +61 408 157 133.¹

PRIVACY

3.1.9 All information collected or used in relation to youth protection risk management policy must be managed in accordance with the privacy requirements defined in Section 1 Chapter 2.

Annexes

- A. Guide to Youth Protection Hazards and Mitigation Strategies
- B. Enterprise-level Youth Protection Risk Controls

Accountable Officer: Chief of Joint Capabilities (CJC)

Policy Owner: Head Joint Support Services Division (HJSSD)

¹ Defence Business Hours only.