

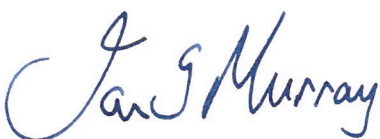
2021 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE ANNUAL CHILD SAFETY RISK ASSESMENT AND STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE COMMONWEALTH CHILD SAFETY FRAMEWORK

Defence does not tolerate abuse or neglect of children. Defence is committed to taking all reasonably practicable steps to ensure the safety and wellbeing of youth with whom it comes into contact through supporting a youth safety culture and the promotion of individual and collective responsibility for youth safety. Defence's commitment is demonstrated in its capstone youth policy manual known as YOUTHPOLMAN.

In 2021, Defence completed an enterprise level risk assessment focusing on strategic level risks in both youth protection and youth safety. The assessment identified and grouped key risks into seven risk areas, linked to the relevant Requirement of the Commonwealth Child Safety Framework and relevant Principle of the National Principles of Child Safe Organisations. The key risk areas include unacceptable behaviour, maintenance of contemporary policy, compliance and assurance framework, volunteers, incident reporting and management and unsafe physical activities with a focus on the nature and risk taking propensity of youth. Defence will continue to mitigate these risks by ensuring compliance with YOUTHPOLMAN through the conduct of compliance and assurance activities.

Taking into account the unique context of Australian Defence Force (ADF) activities, Defence will:

- manage youth safety risks appropriate to the Defence context
- require all ADF members, Australian Public Service (APS) employees, volunteers including members of the ADF Cadets, and contractors to demonstrate their commitment to youth safety through their agreement to undertake their duties in accordance with the appropriate Defence or ADF Cadet youth safety code of conduct
- complete appropriate suitability screening for all adults working with youth in the Defence environment
- require all ADF members, APS employees, volunteers including members of the ADF Cadets, and contractors to complete appropriate youth safety education and training
- engage proactively with parents, guardians, specified next of kin and other agencies involved in the protection of young people
- maintain clear processes for reporting and responding to disclosures, suspicions and allegations of abuse or neglect in accordance with state and territory legislation
- develop and implement processes to identify and address breaches of the Defence Youth Safety Framework
- maintain compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolutions related to children and armed conflict, and
- undertake regular review of the youth safety framework to ensure it remains current and reflects emerging requirements and leading practice.



Rear Admiral IG Murray
Acting Chief Joint Capabilities

18 October 2021