



2024 Annual Child Safety Statement of Compliance with the Commonwealth Child Safety Framework

The Australian Submarine Agency (ASA) is committed to the whole-of-government [Commonwealth Child Safe Framework](#) and to creating and maintaining a child safe environment. ASA has a zero-tolerance approach to child exploitation and abuse, and promotes individual and collective responsibility for youth safety and protection.

Although our interaction with children is minimal in our day-to-day business operations, we recognise we have a role to play to remain vigilant in protecting children while continuing to embed child safety and wellbeing into our leadership, governance and culture. ASA's primary engagement with youth is through community engagement, entry-level career pathways and education programs. These activities aim to increase youth engagement with science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), in particular through the ASA Discovery Centre in South Australia.

In accordance with the requirements of the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework, ASA is committing to undertaking an annual risk assessment. As a newly established Agency, ASA has only recently incorporated child related risks and mitigations in our Corporate Risk Register. Therefore there has not been sufficient time to undertake a risk assessment this year. Based on the establishment of the risk assessment metrics and the suite of child safe policies, processes and initiatives that the ASA has implemented, we assess that we are on track to being compliant.

In addition to the annual risk assessment, ASA has delivered the following initiatives:

- Identification of roles across ASA where the incumbent is required and/or likely to undertake child related work.

- Promotion of online youth safety training, which is mandatory for personnel performing identified child related work.
- Implementation of an interim Child Safe Policy.
- Compliance measures for personnel designated to undertake child related work including the completion of risk assessments, and Working with Children Check (WWCC), Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) or equivalent approvals.
- The establishment of an internal Child Safe site available to all staff with information and resources on child safeguarding.
- Leveraging the Department of Defence's corporate work health and safety system which includes a youth protection reporting functionality.

Over the next 12 months, ASA has committed to delivering the following additional initiatives:

- Quarterly meetings with all personnel undertaking child related roles to ensure ongoing upskilling and awareness of best practice in relation to child safeguarding.
- Promotion of Child Safety Week.
- Further refinement and consultation of our Child Safe Policy.
- Inclusion of child safe clauses in all agreements with external third parties.

ASA recognises that implementing the Child Safe Framework is an ongoing process and will regularly review the hazards, impacts and controls we have in place to create a child safe environment.

