



DVA 2025 Commonwealth Child Safe Framework Statement of Compliance

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in the services we deliver to the veteran community. We are dedicated to promoting a culture that does not permit or tolerate child abuse, exploitation, or neglect.

DVA interacts directly with children through a limited number of programs and services. These include counselling services, grant and bursary programs, education entitlements and arrangements, rehabilitation services for veterans and their families, child care through acute support packages, and targeted programs for children such as Kookaburra Kids. Medical and allied health providers may also deliver services to eligible children in the veteran community.

Contact with children, in the main, is through third parties who are funded to deliver relevant programs and services to the veteran community in partnership with, or on behalf of, DVA. Child safety obligations are identified in grant opportunity guidelines, requests for tender, contracts, grant agreements, and other relevant documentation where activities are expected to involve interaction with children.

DVA complies with the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework through:

- Ensuring all relevant DVA staff and contractors undertake child safety e-learning and other relevant training, adhere to the Framework and relevant legislation, hold working with children checks when required, and maintain mandatory reporting obligations; and
- Undertaking annual child safety risk assessments across relevant programs and services to evaluate risks to child safety, assign appropriate level of responsibility for child safety, and put in place appropriate strategies to manage identified risks.

With mitigations in place across all programs and services, and service providers engaging with children in childcare, education and medical and allied-health settings otherwise required to comply with relevant state and territory laws regarding interactions with children, the overall risk is assessed as low-medium.

Further child safety initiatives undertaken throughout this reporting year include:

- Requiring grant recipients to comply with State, Territory and Commonwealth Law relating to child safety, including complying with laws on working with children checks and mandatory reporting.



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- Requiring tuition providers, engaged through DVA education scheme arrangements, to submit details of working with children checks upon engagement with the veteran's family, and prior to payment for service.
- Requiring all staff, volunteers, and Board Directors for Kookaburra Kids to undergo national criminal history checks and working with children checks.
- Providing Open Arms in-centre clinical staff with monthly external supervision, furthering the opportunity to escalate child safety matters, and reinforce mandatory reporting considerations.