National Commission for
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Children and Young People

Commonwealth Child Safe Framework – Statement of Compliance 2026

The National Commission for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People (the National Commission) is committed to promoting and ensuring the highest standards of child safety across all aspects of its work. The National Commission has zero tolerance for child abuse, neglect, harm and exploitation and is committed to child-centred, trauma-informed and culturally safe practices in our operations and interaction with children.

The National Commission is committed to complying with the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework and to embedding the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations in all aspects of its work. The rights, safety, voices and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people are at the centre of what we do, and we are committed to their safe, culturally appropriate and meaningful participation in our work.

During 2025–26, the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework, Child Safety Policy and Statement of Compliance were communicated to staff and incorporated into the National Commission's governance and compliance arrangements. Child safety training is being developed as part of the ongoing implementation of the Child Safety Policy and Child Safe Risk Management Plan. In the interim, staff were made aware of their child safety responsibilities through policy guidance, onboarding processes and internal communications. The National Commission's Child Safety Policy clearly outlines mandatory reporting requirements and responsibilities for all staff.

The National Commission’s child safety arrangements support:

- child-centred, trauma-informed and culturally safe engagement with children and young people
- the participation of children and young people and their right to have their views heard
- the identification, assessment and management of child safety risks
- appropriate screening and suitability requirements for personnel undertaking child-related work
- appropriate mechanisms for raising and responding to child safety concerns, incidents and disclosures
- staff awareness of their responsibilities for maintaining the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

Child safety risk assessment

In December 2025, the National Commission completed a Child Safe Risk Management Plan to identify, assess and manage risks to child safety across its operations. The assessment identified a range of child safety risks across areas including governance and culture, information management, workforce capability, complaints handling, engagement, and physical and online environments. The highest level of risk identified was assessed as **medium**.

The assessment identified existing controls and further treatments to strengthen the National Commission's child safety arrangements. These include measures relating to staff awareness, screening and suitability requirements, culturally safe engagement, information handling, complaints and incident management, and regular review of child safety policies and practices.

The National Commission will continue to monitor identified child safety risks and the implementation and effectiveness of controls and treatments.

Compliance with the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework

The National Commission assessed its compliance with the four requirements of the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework for 2025–26 as follows:

Requirement 1: Undertake risk assessments annually in relation to activities of the entity, to identify the level of responsibility for, and contact with, children, evaluate risks to child safety, and put in place appropriate strategies to manage identified risks.

- **Compliant**

The National Commission completed its Child Safe Risk Management Plan, identifying and assessing child safety risks and establishing controls and treatments to manage identified risks.

Requirement 2: Establish and maintain a system of training and compliance, to make staff aware of, and compliant with, the Framework and relevant legislation, including Working with Children Checks / Working with Vulnerable People Checks and mandatory reporting requirements.

- **Partially Compliant**

The National Commission maintained arrangements to support staff awareness of and compliance with child safety responsibilities. This included maintaining Working with Children Checks / Working with Vulnerable People Checks for personnel undertaking child-related work, where required by jurisdictional legislation, and maintaining a central register of checks in place. This is in addition to police checks required of all staff through security clearance processes as part of onboarding.

During 2025–26, the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework, Child Safety Policy and Statement of Compliance were communicated to staff, supported by the National Commission's broader induction training, policies and compliance arrangements. The National Commission's Child Safety Policy clearly outlines mandatory reporting requirements and responsibilities for all staff. The Child Safe Risk Management Plan also identifies measures to further strengthen staff awareness, capability and compliance.

Requirement 3: Adopt and implement the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

- **Compliant**

The National Commission has adopted the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and incorporated child safety considerations across its governance, policies, risk management and operational arrangements.

Consistent with the National Principles' emphasis on culturally safe environments and practices, the National Commission recognises culture, identity and connection to family, community and Country as central to the safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people. The National Commission works to ensure information, support and complaints processes are culturally safe, accessible and easy to understand. The National Commission upholds the right of children and young people to be informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and be taken seriously, and involves families and communities in promoting child safety and wellbeing.

The Child Safe Risk Management Plan identifies further actions to strengthen implementation and support continuous improvement.

Requirement 4: Publish an annual statement of compliance with the Framework including an overview of the entity's child safety risk assessment (conducted under Requirement 1).

- **Compliant**

The National Commission reports annually on its compliance with the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework, including its commitment to child safety, its child safety risk assessment and measures to manage identified risks.

In 2026–27, the National Commission will continue to strengthen its child safety arrangements through the ongoing implementation of actions identified in the Child Safe Risk Management Plan, review of child safety policies and practices, and further enhancement of staff awareness and capability to support a culture of child safety and continuous improvement.

The National Commission's current risk rating for 2026 is **medium**.



Sue-Anne Hunter
National Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People

30 Oct 2026