



## **2024 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 across all business areas and services. We are dedicated to promoting a culture that does not permit or tolerate child abuse, exploitation, or neglect.

DVA interacts with children as part of its operations through various programs and services. These include grant and bursary programs such as Saluting Their Service, education schemes, rehabilitation services for veterans and their families, support packages, counselling services, management of claims and targeted programs for children such as Kookaburra Kids.

The Commonwealth Child Safe Framework (the Framework) aims to protect children and young people from the risk of harm or abuse. The Framework sets minimum standards for Commonwealth entities to create and maintain behaviours and practices that are safe for children.

As a Commonwealth entity, we must publish a statement of compliance with the Framework each year.

DVA remains compliant with the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework through:

- **Annual Risk Assessment:**

DVA's 2024 annual child safety risk assessment determined a medium residual risk rating.

The key risks to children identified in the annual risk assessment include the potential for accidental physical and psychological harm, physical or psychological abuse, grooming, sexual abuse, and the misuse of digital content. The consequences of these risks are major (i.e. significant harm to a child) however it is unlikely that they would occur.

Additional controls have been identified and implemented to manage these risks where required.

- **Training and Compliance:**

Ensuring all staff and contractors to DVA adhere to the Framework and relevant legislation, holding required working with children checks and maintaining mandatory reporting obligations.

- **Adoption and implementation of National Principles:**

Integrating the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations into our operations to form the basis of our child safeguarding culture.



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Veterans' Affairs**

In continuing to comply with the Framework, DVA will;

- Provide educational resources, including Family and Domestic Violence Support at Work training and DV alert external training.
- Provide Child Safe training and resources for DVA staff and contractors who interact with children to ensure a safe environment.
- Require grant recipients to comply with relevant laws and submit annual compliance statements for G8A clauses in the Commonwealth Grant Suite.
- Conduct national criminal history and Working with Children checks for all Kookaburra Kids staff, volunteers, and Board Directors.
- Require all Veterans' Chaplains to have criminal history checks and hold an Australian Government Security Vetting Agency Baseline Clearance.
- Include content on child safety and family and domestic violence in the Case Management Practice Guide by the Client Coordinated Support Branch.

DVA is dedicated to embedding child safe practices and initiatives into our culture and work practices, continuously enhancing our commitment to protecting children and young people.