

ANNUAL STATEMENT ON CHILD SAFETY COMPLIANCE - 2023–24

Commitment to child safety

The Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) is committed to upholding the [Commonwealth Child Safe Framework](#) and the associated National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

A description of the entity's interaction with children as part of its operations

There have been no interactions by employees or contractors in the 2023–24 reporting period.

Update on child safety measures undertaken in the reporting year

The ANAO has a Child Safe Policy in line with guidance in the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Commonwealth entities are required to conduct annual risk assessments to evaluate risks to child safety and implement strategies to manage those risks.

Overview of risk assessment

In conducting the risk assessment, the ANAO has considered types of interactions with children in the context of auditing in the Australian public sector, types of risk factors occurring from interactions and types of mitigation factors for those risks. The nature of interactions considered in the risk assessment included direct physical and face-to-face contact; and verbal, written and electronic/online communications.

Outcome of risk assessment

The outcome of the ANAO's risk assessment is that the likelihood of ANAO employees or contractors interacting with children is considered RARE. There were no cases of direct interaction with children in the reporting period (2023–24) or the prior reporting period (2022–23). The consequences of direct interaction with children are considered MEDIUM due to the low likelihood of one-on-one interaction. Consequently, this risk is assessed as a LOW risk for the ANAO.

Risk management

The ANAO has established procedures for identifying potential interactions with vulnerable people at the planning and development stage of an audit including obtaining a Working with Vulnerable Peoples card where relevant.

The ANAO's policies apply to employees and to contractors.

EMPLOYEE TRAINING

The ANAO has made available to all employees the Australian Public Service Commission's (APSC) training on the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework.

The ANAO may also require any employee or contractor who will interact with children in the course of their work to complete additional training and obtain the relevant State or Territory working with vulnerable people or working with children check.

ADOPTION OF NATIONAL PRINCIPLES FOR CHILD SAFE ORGANISATIONS

The ANAO has adopted the 10 National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. ANAO has codified the relevant principles in an internal policy as well as in training provided to employees.

ANNUAL CHILD SAFETY STATEMENT

Commonwealth entities are required to publish an annual statement of compliance with the framework including an overview of the entity's child safety risk assessment.

The Commonwealth Child Safe Framework aims to protect children and young people from the risk of harm or abuse and requires Commonwealth agencies to be 'child safe'. There are four core requirements under the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework and the ANAO's actions for each requirement are outlined below.

- **Undertake annual risk assessment:** The ANAO has undertaken a risk assessment and included an overview and outcomes of this risk assessment and risk management activities in this annual statement of compliance.
- **Establish a system of training and compliance:** The ANAO has developed the ANAO Child Safe Policy outlining its commitment to upholding the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework and the associated National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. The ANAO Child Safe Policy may require employees/contractors to complete the APSC training on the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework. The ANAO also requires any employee/contractor who will interact with children in the course of their work to obtain a Working with Vulnerable People card and may be required to complete additional training. Any interaction with children will be handled in accordance with ANAO's Child Safe Policy.
- **Adopt the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations:** The National Principles for Child Safe Organisations that are relevant to the ANAO have been codified in the ANAO Child Safe Policy and this annual statement of compliance.
- **Publish an annual statement of compliance:** The ANAO published this Annual Statement on Child Safety Compliance 2023–24 on 30 October 2024.