



Woden: PO BOX 35, WODEN ACT 2606
Northside: PO BOX 453, DICKSON ACT 2602

Annual Statement of Compliance with the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework

Our Commitment

Woden Community Service (WCS) and its subsidiaries are committed to protecting and safeguarding children from abuse, neglect and exploitation. WCS is committed to promoting a child safe culture and providing an environment where children and young people feel and are safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives.

Every person involved within the organisation has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role they play, individually and collectively, to ensure the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is a central element of all they do and every decision they make.

Our operations and interaction with children

WCS employees have direct and regular contact with children through our early childhood and community service programs, including in our Early Learning Centres, outside school hours care, and family and youth support programs delivered across Canberra. Staff working in these services interact directly with children and young people as part of their roles.

WCS also engages contractors, volunteers and partner organisations who may have direct or incidental contact with children through joint programs and community initiatives, including services delivered in partnership with other community organisations.

WCS's child safety risk assessment

WCS regularly conducts risk assessments to determine the organisation's overall child safety risk rating, considering the likelihood that staff, contractors and partner organisations may not comply with existing child safety requirements, policies and controls.

This risk assessment identifies both incidental and direct contact with children, primarily through staff working directly in early childhood and family services roles, and through partner organisations delivering joint programs with WCS.



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All staff, contractors and partner organisations working with WCS are required to comply with WCS's Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) requirements and Work Health and Safety (WHS) obligations. Staff and partners who do not meet these requirements may be subject to compliance action, including restrictions on their continued involvement in relevant programs.

WCS undertakes regular monitoring of programs and services that involve direct contact with children, particularly those assessed as medium, high or extreme risk. This includes sighting relevant Working with Vulnerable People and WHS documentation as part of ongoing compliance checks.

WCS understands that managing child safety risks is an ongoing process and will continue to regularly review and strengthen the measures in place to mitigate risks.

WCS's compliance with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

WCS remains compliant with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, the core requirements of which are to:

- undertake annual risk assessments
- establish a system of training and compliance
- adopt the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, and
- publish an annual statement of compliance.

WCS has implemented mandatory Child Safe training for all employees who regularly engage with children or young people, as well as all managers, to strengthen awareness of and compliance with the National Principles and relevant legislation. Additional guidance has also been provided to staff to support the ongoing embedding of the National Principles across the organisation, including information on mandatory reporting obligations, child safety resources and child protection reporting requirements.

WCS has also established a Child Safe Working Group to oversee implementation of the National Child Safe Standards across the organisation, chaired internally and meeting regularly to monitor progress and address emerging risks.



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Child safe initiatives in the reporting year and future activities

- WCS conducted a review of compliance for screening checks (including Working with Vulnerable People checks) for all staff in positions identified as requiring a check, in line with ACT and relevant interstate requirements.
- WCS will continue working with staff and managers to ensure all positions identified as requiring a check remain compliant and is developing improved system capabilities to support ongoing auditing of checks.
- WCS has developed a Child Safe Commitment Statement and associated communications plan to ensure all staff understand and can articulate the organisation's child safety commitments.
- WCS continues to strengthen incident escalation pathways to ensure any concerns regarding child safety are reported, escalated and addressed promptly.
- Additional assurance activities are being progressed to ensure all relevant staff, contractors and partner organisations confirm compliance with WWVP and WHS obligations, along with associated requirements relating to conflict of interest, employment screening, subcontracting arrangements, and maintaining up-to-date contact details.