



AFP CHILD SAFE HANDBOOK

Quick Reference Guide

The *AFP Child Safe Handbook* outlines the AFP's approach to promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people and managing risk to children and young people arising through the day-to-day work of the AFP.

The purpose of the Handbook is to inform all AFP personnel including members of the executive, sworn police officers, unsworn AFP employees, contractors, consultants and volunteers of their obligations in relation to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. Further details are included on [page 2](#) of the Handbook.

Commonwealth Child Safe Framework

In response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Royal Commission), the Australian Government introduced the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework (the Framework) as a whole-of-government policy that sets minimum standards for creating and embedding a child safe culture and practice in Commonwealth entities.

The Framework mandates the requirement to provide an environment in which children and young people are safe, protected and respected, and where staff have the skills, confidence and knowledge to safeguard children. Further details are included on [page 2-4](#) of the Handbook.

National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

Under the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework, Commonwealth entities must ensure:

- 1 Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
- 2 Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
- 3 Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
- 4 Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.
- 5 People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.
- 6 Processes to respond to complaints and concerns are child focused.
- 7 Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.
- 8 Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.
- 9 Implementation of the national child safe principles is regularly reviewed and improved.
- 10 Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.

Further details are included on [page 3](#) of the Handbook.

