COMMONWEALTH CHILD SAFE FRAMEWORK

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE 2025-26

Our commitment

Cancer Australia is committed to implementing the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (the National Principles) and the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework (CCSF).

Interaction with Children

Cancer Australia staff and contractors do not interact with Children as part of Cancer Australia's standard activities.

Cancer Australia-funded research is conducted by universities, medical research institutes (MRIs), hospitals and a range of other approved Administering Institutions. Under clause 5.3 of the Cancer Australia Funding Agreement, Administering Institutions must ensure that all personnel must maintain a Working with Children check and/or a Working with Vulnerable People registration if the project includes Children and/or vulnerable people.

Cancer Australia enforces the requirements of the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. Institutions named in applications to the Redress Scheme, or to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse that have not joined the Redress Scheme or signified their intent to join within the required timeframes, are ineligible to access grant funding.

All Cancer Australia-funded researchers are required to be aware of and conform to the requirements of the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in HR, 2007, including the guidelines in Chapter 4.2 for research involving Children and young people. These guidelines address ethical issues in research and focus on the imperative to show due respect to Children and young people. They address issues such as Children's decision-making capacity, consent, potential coercion by parents, peers and others and conflicting values and interests of parents and Children. The guidelines apply to the recruitment into, and conduct of, research.

Compliance

Actions Completed in 2025-2026

- Reviewed and progressed updating of the Accountable Authority Instructions (AAIs) to include Child safety considerations in the conduct of procurements, grants and other funding arrangements.
- Updated the risk assessment tool to ensure all project risk assessments undertaken by Cancer Australia consider Child safety risks.

Actions completed in previous years

- Established a Child focused complaint handling policy clearly outlining the roles and responsibilities of leadership and staff for dealing with different types of complaints. The complaint handling policy was integrated into the Child Safe Policy.
- Reviewed Cancer Australia's online safety protocols and procedures (e.g., ICT policy and social media policy) ensuring they conformed to the requirement of the CCSF and the National Principles.
- Strengthened Child safety requirements and compliance reporting for third parties funded by Cancer Australia.
- Updated the grant and procurement policy, guidelines and templates to include Child safety requirements, including when to use a Child safety clause in a contract.

Risk assessment

The risks to Child safety because of Cancer Australia activity have been assessed as **LOW** as agency staff do not interact with children as part of standard activities.

The key sources of risk are:

- Lack of awareness of Child safety requirements by Cancer Australia staff, contractors or third parties
- Non-compliance by a funded third party with its Child safety obligations.
- Policies and procedures are not strictly aligned with the National Principles and CCSF as the agency does not deal directly with children.

As noted above, Cancer Australia will be continuing to focus on actions in 2026-27 to strengthen its compliance with the CCSF. These are also the actions required to mitigate the identified risks from the previous assessment.