

CHILD SAFETY – STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The AEC is committed to the protection of the children and young people we serve by providing a respectful and safe environment. The AEC is committed to the cultural safety of First Nations children, the cultural safety of children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability.

The AEC has zero tolerance of child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently with our policies and procedures. We have legal and moral obligations to contact authorities when we are worried about a child's safety, which we follow rigorously.

AEC staff come into contact with children and young people during the course of their work in a variety of ways, including through:

- a. delivery of the AEC's school-based education program, including around 85,000 visitors to our National Electoral Education Centre (NEEC) at Old Parliament House, Canberra
- b. community engagement and public relations activities
- c. at polling places during the conduct of electoral events
- d. public enquiries, including through social media
- e. provisional enrolment of young people
- f. young people coming into AEC offices
- g. international deployments
- h. AEC staff who are carers bringing their children into AEC offices

Staff understand the important and specific role they play in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the children and young people using our services or taking part in programs provided by the AEC.

The AEC has undertaken risk assessments of our operations, and the overall risk rating is **low**.

The AEC has a Child Safety Policy, which outlines our principles and processes for providing a safe environment for children and young people in all offices and business operations. Our Child Safety Policy outlines how all AEC employees have legal obligations to always act ethically and responsibly towards children and young people, including a legal obligation to report any real or suspected instances of grooming or abuse of a minor to police as soon as practicable. We have communicated to all staff about the operation of this policy and the reporting obligations under the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework. Staff at the NEEC undertake annual training and maintain valid Working with Vulnerable People cards issued under ACT legislation.

We have control measures in place to ensure the AEC operationalises our commitment to the safety and protection of the children and young people we serve. The AEC meets our obligations under the four requirements of the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework.

Thomas Ryan

Acting Deputy Electoral Commissioner
Australian Electoral Commission
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