

CHSP providers and Child Safe compliance

Note: 'Child' or 'children' means any person under the age of 18. 'Worker' means any employee or volunteer of the organisation.

All organisations receiving funding from the Australian Government must provide a Child Safety Compliance Statement as a condition of their grant agreement.¹

Your Grant Agreement or Deed of Variation now includes a Child Safe clause in the Supplementary Terms, which will tell you what your obligations are.² There are two possible clauses included in agreements:

- Clause G8A - interaction with children is unplanned or unexpected (incidental)
- Clause CB9 - interaction with children is a normal or an expected part of the activity.

Most recipients of a CHSP grant fall under Clause G8A, which requires grantees to comply with relevant State and Territory child safety legislation.

Compliance with the Child Safety Statement

To remain compliant, you must submit a Child Safety Statement of Compliance each year.

- The statement confirms your organisation is compliant with the child safe clause in your agreement or deed of variation.
- The Community Grants Hub provides a template for this statement in early March, which must be submitted by **31 March**. The statement covers 1 January to 31 December of the *previous calendar year*.

¹ Community Grants Hub, [Child Safety for Australian Government Grants](#), n.d., accessed 6 March 2026; National Office for Child Safety, [Commonwealth Child Safe Framework, Second Edition](#), 2020, accessed 06/03/2026.

² Community Grants Hub, [Child Safety for Australian Government Grants](#), n.d., accessed 26 February 2026.

An example of the G8A Child Safety Statement of Compliance includes the following:³

1. I have made diligent inquiries and have reasonable grounds to believe that all Child-Related Personnel working with children on behalf of the organisation in the provision of grant activities under the grant agreement with the Department:
 - comply with all relevant legislation relating to requirements for working with children in the jurisdiction in which the activities are delivered; and
 - comply with all relevant legislation in jurisdictions including any child-related schemes and mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse and neglect as required or otherwise defined by state or territory legislation.
2. My organisation has imposed the same child safety obligations on subcontractors and secondary subcontractors, if required.
3. I undertake to ensure that all staff will continue to comply for the duration of any funding arrangements the organisation holds with the department.

a) Example text from 'Manual Statement of Compliance G8A Template'

Do your workers require working with children screening?

Each State and Territory has its own laws and regulations to determine who requires working with children screening.⁴

In general, workers do not need working with children screening unless they are working or volunteering in a child-related area. That is, when working or volunteering for an organisation which provides services to people aged under 18, and contact with children occurs, or is likely to occur, more than incidentally (irregular or unplanned contact) as part of their role.

Therefore, if your organisation only provides aged care services, your workers do not require working with children screening. This is true even if staff and volunteers may sometimes encounter children during the course of their duties, such as at open days or at clients' homes.

However, to be compliant with Child Safety requirements, you must have put in place policy and procedures related to child safety at your organisation.

³ Community Grants Hub, [Manual Statement of Compliance - G8A Template](#), 2025, accessed 26 February 2026.

⁴ Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC), [Working with children checks](#), n.d., accessed 6 March 2026.

Child Safety Risk

Assess your organisation's strategic and operational risk of harm to children.⁵

Strategic Risk

As part of your organisation's governance, you should assess your organisation's child safety risk. In most cases, your child safety risk is low if:

- your workers do not normally have face-to-face contact with children;
- any contact your workers have with children is incidental (irregular or unplanned); and
- when your workers do have contact with children, they are in the company of a caregiver or guardian.

Operational Risk

Even if your strategic risk for child safety is low, you may still have operational risks that require mitigation.

Mitigation strategies may include, adding awareness of risks to child safety in employee and volunteer training and orientation, and adding procedures for child safety to your employee and volunteer handbooks. For example:

- A worker who visits a client's home where there is a child staying or visiting must:
 - avoid any situation where they are alone with the child;
 - never agree to requests for help with caring for the child, such as changing a nappy, feeding a child, or giving an older child or teen a lift in their car - even if there is another adult there;
 - take care to avoid situations that could cause harm to a child, even inadvertently, such as if the child overhears an adult-themed conversation which includes vulgar or explicit language; or discussions around illness, death, and distressing experiences in the client's life.
- A worker who suspects signs of abuse in a child must report the suspicions to a supervisor.
 - Your organisation does not have mandatory reporting responsibilities for suspected child abuse. However, any member of the public can report suspected abuse of a child to the Child Protection Helpline in your State or Territory.⁶

Children accompanying volunteers on duties

If your service allows volunteers to take children in their care with them whilst performing duties, you will need to consider child safety in your operational procedures and policies, including risk. This could include procedures such as:

⁵ National Office for Child Safety, [Child Safety Risk Management Resources](#), 2023, accessed 25 February 2026.

⁶ National Office for Child Safety, [Make a report](#), n.d., accessed 6 March 2026.

- Volunteers must always directly supervise children in their care whilst on duty.
- Children in the care of volunteers must never enter a client's home, even if invited to do so by the client.

When setting policies, consider the risk of harm to a child accompanying a volunteer, even inadvertently. For example, a child may experience psychosocial harm if exposed to difficult or distressing behaviour of a client or a member of the client's household, such as agitation, irritability, disruptive behaviour or disinhibition.

Situations where children should not accompany volunteers

Ensure the scope of your service remains safe for children, and update policies and procedures accordingly.

For example: your meal delivery volunteers sometimes enter a client's home for a short time, to place meals inside the client's refrigerator.

When inside the client's home, the volunteers' responsibility to safeguard children in their care will likely conflict with fulfilling their duty to your clients.

In this case, the *safest* course of action for your organisation, clients, workers and children is to make it your policy that children may not accompany volunteers where entering a client's home is a necessity, or even a possibility whilst on duty.

Update your organisation's policies and procedures

With your Strategic and Operational Risks in mind, ensure your organisational documentation includes:

- A Child Safety Policy
- Child safety considerations in your Risk Management Policy
- Child safety risks in your risk register

These documents should already be accompanied by

- A risk matrix
- A risk management framework document
- Regular monitoring and continuous improvement processes

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