



Annual Statement of Compliance with Child Safe Framework - 2026

Commitment to safety

The Reef Authority is committed to promoting and maintaining a culture that provides for the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. It endeavours to ensure children and young people feel safe, supported, and respected, and that their rights, needs, and interests are met.

The Reef Authority is committed to protecting and safeguarding children and young people by:

- Creating policies and procedures to protect children and young people.
- Ensuring employees are aware of the policies and procedures and comply with them.
- Creating conditions that reduce the likelihood of harm to children and young people.
- Complying with the [Commonwealth Child Safe Framework](#).
- Adopting and implementing, where applicable, the [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#).

As part of its commitment:

- All Reef Authority employees undergo reference checks and police checks.
- All Reef Authority employees engaged for more than 12 months are required to hold and maintain, at a minimum, a Baseline security clearance.
- Reef Authority employees who interact with children or young people are required to hold and maintain a current Working with Children Check or Working with Vulnerable People Check.

Reef Authority's interactions with children and young people

The Reef Authority undertakes a number of activities that either, directly or occasionally, involve children and young people. These include:

- Reef Authority employees engage with Traditional Owners in their communities and facilitate a wide variety of cultural and 'caring for country' activities, including Junior Ranger programs, cultural heritage camps, Sea Country conferences, training, monitoring and research. Reef Authority employees work with children and young people during the facilitation of these activities.
- The Reef Guardian Schools Program connects school students in their classrooms to environmental and sustainability projects. This initiative has a strong focus on working with children and young people face-to-face and virtually.
- At the time of writing, the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium is closed for redevelopment. The Aquarium offers virtual learning experiences and uses video conferencing to virtually connect with school students. The Reef Authority's Education Team prepares virtual education material and lessons on YouTube.
- Events and exhibitions where children and young people visit Reef Authority stands, displays and booths.
- School / education institution visits and community events to discuss Reef Authority work.
- Work placements, student-based work experience, and incidental interactions with children and young people whilst performing work duties.
- Indirect contact whilst undertaking compliance activities, field trips, and work-related travel.



Risk rating

The Reef Authority completes an annual child safety risk assessment review. The Reef Authority's overarching risk rating (with treatment plans in place) is low.

The Reef Authority continues to develop initiatives to reduce its risk profile and adopt child safety measures in alignment with the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework.

Compliance with the Framework

The Reef Authority complies with the four requirements of the framework:

Requirement 1	Requirement 2	Requirement 3	Requirement 4
Undertake risk assessments annually in relation to activities of the entity, to identify the level of responsibility for, and contact with, children, evaluate risks to child safety, and put in place appropriate strategies to manage identified risks.	Establish and maintain a system of training and compliance, to make employees aware of, and comply with, the framework and relevant legislation, including Working with Children checks / Working with Vulnerable People Checks and mandatory reporting requirements.	Adopt and implement the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.	Publish an annual statement of compliance with the framework including an overview of the entity's child safety risk assessment (conducted under Requirement 1).

The Reef Authority is committed to ongoing improvements to enhance and protect child safety through the implementation of the framework. The Reef Authority maintains the controls and continues to implement the risk treatments identified in its risk assessment, together with taking measures to embed and improve compliance with the framework. These measures include:

- Providing new employees with education on the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework as part of their induction.
- Reviewing and updating (where necessary) recruitment and induction processes where positions involve interaction with children and young people.
- Including Child Safe principles in procurement and contractor engagement.
- Engaging in the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework Community of Practice.
- Creating a dedicated Child Safety page on the Reef Authority's intranet to support greater awareness and understanding of its obligations under the framework and promoting the Reef Authority's commitment.

Planned initiatives over the next 12 months include:

- Continue to improve staff awareness of the Reef Authority's child safety obligations.
- Continue to review internal systems to enhance processes relating to training and maintaining relevant checks.
- Continue to ensure child safe clauses are included in procurement and contracts for funded third parties, where required.

Jameelie Fletchett
Chief Operating Officer
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

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