



**Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor- General**

**Annual Child Safety Statement 2023**

The Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General (the Office) is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young individuals. This statement, in accordance with Requirement 4 of the Commonwealth Child Safety Framework, provides a succinct overview of how the Office upholds the guidelines outlined in the Framework. This approach is informed by the insights derived from our annual assessment of child safety risks.

Our operational activities predominately involve limited direct interaction with children. Through rigorous risk assessment, the Office has concluded that our established policies and procedures aptly address potential risks associated with such interactions, thereby rendering them appropriate and effective. Consequently, we assess the Office's child-related risks to be LOW.

Notwithstanding the low-risk outcome from our annual child safety risk assessment, our commitment to the enhancement and implementation of the Framework remains steadfast. The Office has a suite of safety policies and protocols that cover essential elements of the Framework.

In roles where there is a likelihood of interaction with a child, incumbents are required to undergo a Working with Children Check.

The Office's dedication to child safety is not only evident in its commitments but also in the governance structures established to uphold these commitments. Our policies in conjunction with effective reporting mechanisms, contribute to fostering a secure environment for all children. Despite advancements and our low-risk rating, we are committed to sustained improvement and continually striving to ensure comprehensive protection from all potential harm.

This statement serves as a testament to the Office's unwavering dedication to child safety standards. It underscores our ongoing pursuit of cultivating a culture that is inherently child safe, thereby reflecting our commitment to safeguarding children through the implementation of sound operational practices.

**Paul Singer MVO**

Official Secretary to the Governor- General