OFFICE OF THE OFFICIAL SECRETARY
TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Annual Child Safety Statement 2026

The Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General (the Office) is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This statement, in accordance with Requirement 4 of the Commonwealth Child Safety Framework, outlines the Office's approach to maintaining a child-safe environment. It is informed by the Office's annual assessment of child safety risks.

Our operational activities involve limited direct interaction with children. Based on its annual risk assessment, the Office has concluded that existing established policies and procedures appropriately identify and manage Child safety risks. Accordingly, the Office assesses its child safety risk profile as LOW.

Notwithstanding this outcome, the Office remains committed to implementing and strengthening the requirements of the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework. The Office maintains policies, procedures and guidance that support child-safe practices across the organisation.

In roles where there is a likelihood of interaction with a child, incumbents are required to hold a Working with Children Check, and training is available to all staff to ensure they understand their obligations and responsibilities under the Framework and relevant legislation.

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. While there were no new child safety initiatives that commenced during the reporting period, existing guidance and policy documentation was reviewed and updated. This reflects the Office's commitment to child safety standards.

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 reflects the Office's ongoing commitment to fostering a child-safe culture and ensuring that child safety considerations are embedded in its operation and decision-making.

Gerard Martin PSM
Official Secretary to the Governor- General