



# Annual Statement of Compliance with the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework

## Our commitment

Independent Living Assessment (iLA) is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people involved in our activities and programs. We have a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse, neglect, or exploitation. We strive to create an environment where all children and young people are safe, feel valued, and have their rights upheld. iLA confirms its commitment to child safety, by reviewing and monitoring compliance with the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework.

## iLA's interaction with children and young people

iLA is a not-for-profit organisation with a history of delivering services to people aged 65 or over and people with disability aged 18 or over. Whilst our organisation has little or no interaction with children, there may be occasions where a:

- child accompanies their parent or guardian to an online appointment.
- person under the age of 18 undertakes work experience for iLA.
- third party grant recipient participates in planned inter-generational activities involving children and their parent or guardian.

## iLA's child safety risk assessment

iLA conducted a review and update of its strategic and operational risk registers in November 2023 to ensure risks were identified and mitigated appropriately, to as low as practically possible.

Our risk assessment process is informed by our compliance with legislation, policies, and procedures. We gather feedback from all areas of the business, complete internal audits, and conduct site visits with third parties annually.

The overall child safety risk rating for iLA has been assessed as medium, based on the possibility of non-compliance with requirements, policies and controls aimed at managing and mitigating risks.

We recruit a workforce that is appropriately trained and qualified and we support our people to understand and follow child safety obligations including prompt and effective identification, reporting and management of any child-related incidents.

iLA has put in place measures to ensure all risks in both physical and online environments are well managed. These include:

- ensuring appropriate level of support and supervision is provided to any young person who may participate in work experience within the workplace.
- ensuring children participating in planned face-to-face intergenerational activities are accompanied by their parent or guardian.
- ensuring engagement with children in the written form is moderated by the intergenerational activity coordinator and the children's schoolteacher.



- requiring third parties undertaking activities that engage with children to confirm their compliance with child safe obligations.
- requiring staff and third-party grant recipient staff who work with children to have a current Working with Children Check or Blue Card according to jurisdictional requirements.
- providing opportunities for children, families, and other key stakeholders to raise a complaint, concern, or to provide feedback via phone, email, or online web-form.
- providing staff and third-party grant recipients with access to targeted training and information, including access to eLearning modules provided by the Human Rights Commission and other reputable training providers.

iLA understands that managing child safety risks is an ongoing process and will continue to progress our maturity in this, by regularly analysing and reviewing the measures we have in place to mitigate risks. This will be addressed as part of iLA's ongoing improvement plan for 2024–25.

## iLA's compliance with the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework

iLA meets compliance with all four requirements of the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework, the core requirements of which are:

- undertake annual risk assessments.
- establish a system of training and compliance.
- adopt the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.
- publish an annual statement of compliance.

## Child safe initiatives

iLA is committed to further strengthening compliance with the Child Safe Framework. As we mature and as part of our commitment to continuous improvement, we will continue to identify areas that require further work to ensure compliance. The following focus areas will be prioritised in 2024-25:

- Development of e-safety guidelines for online interactions that may involve children.
- Development of tools for children and young people enabling their participation in decisions that affect them.
- Ongoing training to increase knowledge of reporting requirements, recognising threats, abuse or harm to children and young people, legislation, cultural considerations, and safety.
- Ongoing education about the requirement for Child Safety Activity Risk Assessments for all events/activities involving children and young people.
- Conducting additional regulatory checks and child safety recruitment and induction practices when it is identified interaction with children will form part of service delivery.
- Continuing awareness of requirements when obtaining, managing, storing, and using images and data relating to children and young people.