Commonwealth Child Safe Framework

Compliance Statement October 2026

The Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) is committed to promoting and maintaining a child-safe environment and culture, and ensuring our organisational structures, policies, procedures and processes promote child safety and wellbeing. We are committed to the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework (CCSF) and comply with its 4 core requirements:

1. Risk assessment and mitigation
2. Training and compliance
3. National Principles for Child Safe Organisations
4. Annual child safety statement (this document).

Over the last 12 months, AIFS has demonstrated compliance and commitment to the CCSF through:

- maintaining a public-facing Child Safe Policy and internal Child Safe Research Policy, outlining the responsibilities and obligations of AIFS staff and third-party providers
- having a CCSF Working Group, Child Safe Officers and Child Safe Champion to advise and support staff, and to embed, monitor and continually improve on child safety initiatives
- conducting annual and activity-specific child safety risk assessments.

AIFS interactions with children

AIFS' business activities and functions do not usually involve direct interaction with children. Some research and dissemination activities may occasionally involve AIFS staff or subcontracted third-party providers directly interacting with children. For example, children may participate in surveys, interviews, focus groups, and webinars or other presentations. Other instances of direct interaction between children and AIFS staff or third-party providers may include children contacting AIFS through its enquiry or project channels, and participating in photo or video shoots for communication materials. In 2025-26, there were no notable direct interactions with children.

Annual Risk Assessment

AIFS has undertaken an annual child safety risk assessment for 2025-26. The assessment included the identification and evaluation of child safety risks and the mitigation measures used to manage them.

Key risks include harm arising from interactions between children and AIFS staff or third parties, and children encountering age-inappropriate content in AIFS spaces, activities or publications.

AIFS has a range of measures to mitigate risks, including staff screening, checks and training, project-specific risk management and ethics, content warnings and supervision for children engaging with AIFS or its work, pathways and protocols to escalate child safety concerns, and agency-wide monitoring and review. Further details are included in Appendix 1 to AIFS' Child Safe Policy.

Considering the identified risks and mitigations, we assessed our overall child safety risk rating for 2026 as 'Medium' and determined that the measures in place to mitigate risks are appropriate.

No new child safety risks were identified in 2026. Nevertheless, AIFS is developing additional mitigation measures to further enhance and embed child safe practices across the organisation.

These measures include:

- ensuring that children who contact AIFS are connected with an appropriately trained staff member

- undertaking work activities in a manner that minimises the risk of children being exposed to age-inappropriate themes
- clearly communicating AIFS' expectations that third party providers conduct their work activities in a child safe manner.

Future key focus areas

Over the next 12 months, AIFS will work to include children's voices in our research where possible and strengthen staff capabilities in age-appropriate, child-focused and trauma-informed research methods. We will also continue to adapt our child safety initiatives and mitigation measures as our operating environment evolves, ensuring our ongoing commitment to and compliance with the CCSF.

_____



Liz Neville

Director

Australian Institute of Family Studies

30 October 2026