

CHILD SAFETY STATEMENT

Statement

ACOLA is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. We affirm that every child has the right to be safe, respected and protected from abuse, neglect and exploitation in all interactions connected with our work.

Our Commitment

ACOLA has adopted the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and maintains a Child Safety Policy that governs how we prevent, identify, and respond to child safety concerns. Our Child Safety Policy applies to all Board members, committee members, staff, volunteers, contractors, and partners engaged in ACOLA activities.

While ACOLA does not deliver programs or services that involve direct or regular contact with children, we recognise that children may be present at our events, may be connected to our stakeholders or partners, or may be affected by our funded activities. We take our responsibility to maintain a child-safe environment seriously in all of these contexts.

What We Will Do

We will work to include child safety awareness in our staff induction and undertake appropriate screening (such as a Working with Children or Vulnerable People check) for any role identified as involving more than incidental contact with children.

We will work to require partner organisations that work with children to maintain child safeguarding policies consistent with applicable laws and the national Principles.

We will work to include child safeguarding obligations in relevant funding and partnership agreements.

We will maintain clear procedures for reporting and responding to child safety concerns.

We will review our child safety practices regularly to ensure they remain current and effective.

How to Raise a Concern

Anyone, including children, families, participants or members of the public, can raise a child safety concern with ACOLA. Reports may be made anonymously.

Child Safety Contact: Diana Melham, Company Secretary

- Email: confidential@acola.org.au
- Post: GPO Box 783 CANBERRA ACT 2601 (marked 'CONFIDENTIAL')
- Phone: +61 0412 605 129

All concerns are handled confidentially and in accordance with our Complaints Handling Policy and Procedure. Where a child is in immediate danger, please contact emergency services on 000 first.

If you are not satisfied with ACOLA's response to a concern, you may raise the matter with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, which oversees charity governance at www.acnc.gov.au/raise-concern.

Our Policies

- Child Safety Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Complaints Handling Policy and Procedure

This statement was approved by the ACOLA Board of Directors on 1 July 2026 and will be reviewed every two years.