



Australian Government
Office of Parliamentary Counsel

First Parliamentary Counsel

Child Protection – First Parliamentary Counsel Statement of Compliance

5 November 2021

1 The Office of Parliamentary Counsel (*OPC*) has a zero tolerance approach to child exploitation or abuse, and we are committed to promoting and maintaining a culture that provides a safe environment for children.

2 We recognise that all adults share the responsibility of preventing exploitation and abuse. That is why OPC requires the commitment, support and cooperation of all individuals who help deliver our services.

3 As a Commonwealth government agency, OPC is committed to the whole-of-government Commonwealth Child Safe Framework (*CCSF*).

4 As part of our commitment, OPC:

- undertakes an annual risk assessment to evaluate the risk of harm to children and young people, and put in place strategies to manage those risks
- has established an awareness program to ensure workers are aware of, and comply with, our child safety requirements, and
- adopts and implements the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

OPC's interaction with children description

5 OPC's work does not involve interaction with children. OPC's key focus of work is the drafting and publication of legislation and contact with children is not relevant to our mission.

Annual Risk assessment

6 OPC conducts an annual risk assessment of its positions to determine the level of contact with children. To date, OPC has not identified any positions that work with or have contact with children. OPC's current risk rating is low.

7 However, recognising that all adults share the responsibility for keeping children safe, we ensure all workers are aware of that responsibility and the CCSF.

8 OPC is compliant with the CCSF.

Reports and notifications

9 If you wish to report an instance, suspicion or allegation of child exploitation and/or abuse you may do so by using the following form: Child Incident Notification Form

10 Please email the form to: Email: fpc@opc.gov.au.

11 Child exploitation and abuse is not tolerated by OPC and attracts criminal penalties under Australian legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ML', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Meredith Leigh
First Parliamentary Counsel