

ABC Child Safety & Wellbeing Obligations for External Parties



The ABC engages with children and young people who are under 18 on a daily basis through our content and services, including as audience members, online contributors, actors, and visitors to our buildings.

The ABC is committed to ensuring that all children and young people are protected from harm or abuse, including where products, services or interactions are being provided by a party external to the ABC.

If you or anyone working for you works directly with children in any capacity for, or on behalf of, the ABC it is essential that you read and comply with:

1. the [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#)
2. the ABC's Child Protection Core Values
3. the [ABC Editorial Policies](#), including the Guidance Notes relating to working with Children and Young People.

It is also crucial that you know who to contact at the ABC if you have any concerns about child protection or the welfare of a child.

More information about the ABC's Child Safety & Wellbeing Framework and Policy can be found [here](#).

Legal & Other Obligations

There is a complex regime of legislation in Australia which operates to protect children. If you are engaging with Children or Young People on behalf of or in conjunction with the ABC you must ensure you are familiar with your legal obligations, including whether or not you or any of your Workers require a Working with Children Check or if you require an authority to employ children.

If you are unsure of the extent of your obligations for working with or employing children or young people, you should contact the relevant State or Territory department for assistance.

If you or any of your workers require Working with Children checks, you must provide the details of your Working with Children check to the relevant ABC contact and the [ABC's Child Protection Officer](#).

In some instances, the ABC may require that parties external to the ABC have appropriate Child Protection Policies in place.



Core Values

Regardless of the extent of your legal obligations towards children or young people the ABC expects external parties and any of their Workers to comply with the following core values when engaging with children on behalf or in conjunction with the ABC:

1. Treat Children and Young People with care, respect and dignity at all times.
2. Be alert to the safety of Children and Young People at all times.
3. Never take sole responsibility for a Child or Young Person, except in an emergency. If a Child or Young Person needs care, speak to their parent, Guardian or Chaperone.
4. Behave appropriately and use appropriate language when you are with Children and Young People. This includes never smoking around them.
5. Set and expect appropriate behaviours from Children and Young People, both in relation to safety requirements and standards of behaviour.
6. Be open and clear in all of your communication with Children and Young People.
7. Listen when a Child or Young Person speaks to you. If a Child or Young Person makes a complaint, or any comment which suggests their welfare may be at risk, you have a duty to report it immediately to the [Child Protection Officer](#).
8. When a Child or Young Person is participating in ABC content in any way, meet the requirements of the Principles and Standards relating to Children and Young People in the [ABC Editorial Policies](#).

Physical contact

Workers should avoid physical contact with a Child or Young Person. If a Child or Young Person is in obvious distress, or approaches a Worker, the Worker must act responsibly and in public. Any such contact should be age appropriate. Workers should avoid any contact in isolated areas (such as a green room or edit suite).



If physical contact is necessary, for example by a makeup artist or by a sound engineer attaching a radio microphone, the Child or Young Person should be accompanied by a parent, Guardian or Chaperone and doors must be kept open. Where possible, the Child or Young Person should be within the hearing of others. The Child or Young Person should be told the nature and purpose of the contact, and their permission obtained. A Child should never be made to feel uncomfortable in any way.

Online safety

Children and Young People are particularly vulnerable in online spaces, and the ABC's child protection obligations extend to engagement with Children and Young People via the ABC's digital media services.

The Guidance Note [Children and Young People: Managing their Participation Online](#) provides guidance about the management of children's participation in ABC-managed online spaces, including abc.net.au websites and third party sites, which are specifically designed for Children and/or based around children's content.

Under no circumstances is it appropriate for a Worker to use their position at the ABC to create a personal relationship of any kind with a Child or Young Person on any social media platform.

Risk Assessment

Any proposed activity which involves Children or Young People must include a consideration of the specific risks work health and safety associated with the safety and welfare of Children and Young People.

Personal Information about Children and Young People

Personal information about Children and Young People must be protected in accordance with relevant legislation.

Who to contact or report concerns to?

Any inappropriate behaviour or suspicion of inappropriate behaviour towards a child or young person or around either of these groups must be reported promptly to the ABC's [Child Protection Officer](#).

The ABC's Child Protection Officer can be contacted via email at child.protection@abc.net.au.