

# Child Protection – Annual child safety statement of compliance 2022

The ACCC/AER is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in connection with our work and with our employees.

The welfare of children will always be a priority.

We have zero tolerance for child abuse and exploitation, and any allegations and concerns for safety of children and young people will be treated seriously. We believe that all children have a right to feel safe, respected, valued and protected from harm.

We will not knowingly engage – directly or indirectly – anyone who poses a threat to children.

The work we perform protects the interests and safety of consumers, and we provide information about their rights and obligations. We are committed to ensuring that our employees do not harm, abuse or exploit children and young people who are involved with our work, services, contact centre, events or facilities.

The ACCC is an independent Commonwealth statutory agency that promotes competition, fair trading and product safety for the benefit of consumers, businesses and the Australian community. The primary responsibilities of the ACCC are to enforce compliance with the competition, consumer protection, fair trading and product safety provisions of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth)*, regulate national infrastructure and undertake market studies.

The AER is an independent decision making body responsible for regulating wholesale and retail energy markets, and energy networks, under national energy legislation and rules. The AER focuses on ensuring a secure, reliable and affordable energy future for Australia.

The overwhelming majority of the ACCC and AER's functions do not involve regular interactions with children. Where there are interactions with children, they are likely to be brief, incidental to interactions with adults, and/or undertaken in either public environments or under the supervision or scrutiny of other people.

The ACCC/AER has undertaken a child safety risk assessment. The assessment concludes that the overall level of risk to child safety and wellbeing in the context of the ACCC/AER is low, and that sufficient controls exist to manage this risk.

The ACCC/AER has a [Child safety policy](#) that adopts the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. This policy reflects the ACCC/AER's commitment to the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework (the Framework) and the practical application across the agency.

The ACCC/AER has an on-demand training module on the Framework.

The ACCC/AER did not provide a statement of compliance in 2021. Reporting arrangements within the agency will be revisited to ensure that annual compliance reporting is provided by the due date.

There were no reportable incidents during 2021.