



Defence Youth Safety Framework

ADFC Youth Safety Fact Sheet Status Assessment ACT / NSW

Background

Early in 2014 the Vice Chief of the Defence Force (VCDF) provided formal direction to establish the measures required to ensure the Australian Defence Force Cadets (ADFC) met its child protection obligations.

Each cadet organisation responded by developing guidance, procedures and protocols to enable implementation of the directed actions.

VCDF subsequently extended his direction to develop guidance, procedures and protocols to support the roll out of child protection measures Defence wide. This extended direction resulted in the initiation of the Defence Youth Safety Framework (DYSF).

The DYSF is being developed in phases. When all three phases of development are completed in September 2017 the DYSF will include a suite of guidance documents and implementation resources designed to support leading youth safe practices. The DYSF will also include a suite of role specific e-learning packages and assurance mechanisms that will enable VCDF, ADFC leadership and the wider public to have confidence in Defence youth safety systems and practices.

Phase 3 development action includes four complementary streams of work:

- Youth Safety Culture,
- Youth Safety Governance,
- Youth Safety Training, and
- Youth Safety Assurance.

The work of the Youth Safety Assurance stream focuses on the development of a set of Defence Youth Safety Standards and tools to assess how both the ADFC and the wider Defence community are performing. The standards and tools will be known collectively as the 'Youth Safety Assurance Toolkit'.

However, before the Toolkit can be rolled out Defence and ADFC wide it needs to undergo some testing. The test chosen for the toolkit is the conduct of an ADFC Status Assessment of Youth Safety activity in units located across the ACT and NSW.

What is a Status Assessment?

An ADFC Status Assessment is a point in time snapshot of an organisation's performance as a youth safe organisation. A status assessment involves three key actions:

- Desk top review of relevant documentation such as policies, procedures, protocols and training materials;
- Real time observation through site visits and live discussion; and
- Provision of feedback.

Status assessments will become one component of a range of assurance actions that will contribute to the Defence youth safety assurance cycle.

Status Assessments will describe Youth Safety performance in four areas:

1. Youth Safety Culture – 'Defence and ADFC leaders display personal commitment to Youth Safe values and behaviours, and governance mechanisms operate to encourage an organisational approach to Youth Safety.'
2. Youth Safe People – 'Suitable people are supported to work with and protect Youth through the continual development of knowledge, skills, and awareness.'
3. Youth Safety Systems – 'Youth Safety systems clearly define Youth Safety expectations and are continuously improved.'
4. Youth Safety Environment – 'The Youth Safety environment is managed through access, collaboration and empowerment.'

Status Assessments are not a pass or fail assessment, but will use a maturity model to summarise performance in each of the above four areas into one of five maturity categories.

Why choose the ADFC to pilot the Toolkit?

There were two main reasons for choosing the ADFC to pilot the toolkit. A small scale test of the Toolkit at a limited number of locations would enable the Toolkit development team to identify whether the standards and tools are fit for purpose / will do the job or whether some minor adaptations are required.

Piloting the Toolkit through a limited ADFC status assessment also presents an opportunity to provide the ADFC leadership and VCDF with a point-in-time snapshot of youth safety practices in each of the units included in the limited assessment.

How have assessment sites been determined?

The point in time ADFC Youth Safety snapshot required identification of an equal number of units across the ANC, AAC and AAFC that provided a balance of metropolitan, regional and rural locations.

Initial contact with the participating units occurred through each cadet organisation's regular communication channels and processes. Identified units have now received detailed advice about the conduct of the assessment.

The advice included an Assistance Schedule to help units get ready for the visit.

Further Information

Should you require any further information on the ADFC Status Assessment, please email:

dysf.phase3@defence.gov.au

