



Defence Youth Safety Framework

Phase 3 – Youth Safety Assurance Fact Sheet

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) as a project within the Reserve and Youth Division (RYD).

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 (YS) systems and practices.

Phase 3 development action includes four complementary streams of work:

- YS Culture,
- YS Governance,
- YS Training and
- YS Assurance

Why an Assurance Workstream?

The work of the YS Assurance stream is focused on the development of a YS assurance program and tool kit that includes a set of Defence YS standards that define the culture, people and environmental practices, systems and processes necessary for Defence to be considered a youth safe organisation, and a maturity model to capture achievement.

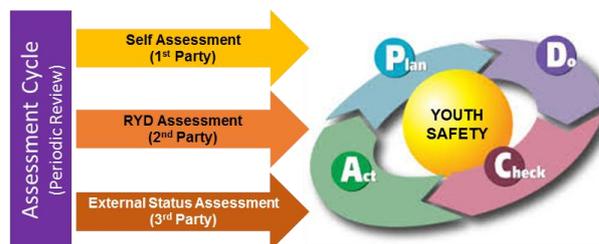
A structured assurance program presents the opportunity for Defence and the ADFC to demonstrate their maturity as a YS organisation and as well as providing those who are charged with governance responsibilities a sense of confidence that practices that are meant to be occurring are actually occurring.

Refinement of both the standards and the maturity model will be enabled through their use in a limited ADFC Status Assessment - a point in time snapshot of YS activity in a small number of ADFC units across NSW and the ACT.

A small scale trial of all aspects of the assurance toolkit will enable the team to confirm whether the toolkit is ready for full-scale implementation. It will also provide an opportunity for refinement to be informed by feedback from a sample of the broader target population.

A Status Assessment is developed through the combination of information from a desk top review and real time observation. Status assessments are just one of the assurance actions that will contribute to the overall Defence YS assurance framework.

Status assessments, whether self assessments or reviews by either RYD or an external third party, will provide the foundation for year on year improvement action.



Outcome of YS Assurance Workstream

The key deliverables of the YS Assurance Workstream include:

- Defence YS Standards: November 2016
- Defence YS Toolkit (Maturity Model, Assessment tools and templates): April 2017
- YS Toolkit Pilot (ADFC Status Assessment): April 2017

Who do I contact?

Should you require any further information on the DYSF Phase 3, please email:

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