



Defence Youth Safety Framework

Phase 3 Project Factsheet

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 designed to support the implementation of VCDF Directive 03/2014 *child protection – Australian Defence Force Cadets*.

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 launch of the Defence Youth Safety Framework (DYSF) in December 2015.

The launch was limited to publication of a youth safety commitment statement in YOUTHPOLMAN Pt 1, a description of the proposed framework and a DYSF action plan outlining framework development and implementation over the following 12 months.

Phase 2 development action was completed 30 June 2016 with publication of four foundation Youth Safety (YS) policies including new policies for YS governance, YS risk and incident management. Phase 2 also included the release of the first five items in the YS resources suite including risk management, code of conduct, suitability screening, incident management and training guides.

Phase 3 action focuses on four complimentary streams of work designed to position Defence at the vanguard of youth safe organisations.

DYSF Phase 3 action will address each of the remaining structural and cultural gaps that create opportunities for child abuse in an institutional setting. Phase 3 action underpins the Defence aspiration to become a lead organisation in YS through a focus on effective youth safety risk management.

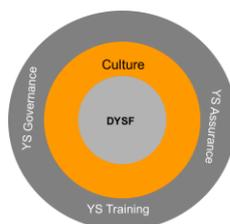
On completion of Phase 3 activity, in September 2017, the DYSF will include:

- an extensive suite of guidance documents and resources designed to support day-to-day youth safe practice Defence and ADFC wide;
- a range of role specific e-learning packages and
- an assurance mechanism that will enable both the VCDF and the wider public to have confidence in Defence youth safety practices.

The four complementary streams of Phase 3 activity comprise – YS Culture, YS Governance, YS Training and YS Assurance.

YS Culture

Whilst policy and procedure are critical to setting expectations, culture drives behaviour and actions. Activity in the YS stream is focused on embedding YS actions as core practices across Defence and the ADFC. Key to this is the pursuit of a



OneDefence and OneCadet approach to YS. The main activities in the YS Culture Workstream include:

- Stakeholder engagement
- Organisation of a Youth Safety forum, and
- Development of communication products

YS Training

Training and education are key to empowering both young people and adults to respond appropriately to YS risks, incidents or allegations of abuse. YS Training stream activity will deliver a continuum of role-specific e-learning packages on CAMPUS and CAMPUS-Anywhere for Defence personnel and contractors; and CadetNet for the ADFC. The indicative timeline for e-learning package release is:

- Level 1 Awareness: Live
- Level 2 Practitioner: March 2017
- Level 6 Youth: July 2017
- Level 3 Leader: August 2017
- Level 4 Executive: August 2017
- Level 5 Specialist: September 2017
- Level 1 Refresher: September 2017
- Defence YS Information Package: September 2017

YS Governance

YS Governance stream activity is focused on establishing the structures, processes and procedures required to embed and support YS across Defence and the ADFC. Effective governance will empower each individual to take actions to protect youth and respond appropriately when faced with the question of what to do in the event of an issue arising.

YS Assurance

The YS Assurance stream is focused on the development of a set of Defence YS Standards together with methods and tools for assessing organisational achievement against the standards. The use of these standards and tools will provide confidence to those who are charged with governance responsibilities that policies and practices that are meant to be in place actually are and are delivering a YS experience. The main deliverables will include:

- Defence Youth Safety Standards: December 2016
- Defence Youth Safety Toolkit (Maturity Model, Assessment tools and templates): April 2017
- ADFC Status Assessment: April 2017

Who do I contact?

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

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