



# Youth Policy Manual Part 1 update

Defence has reviewed and updated the [Youth Policy Manual \(YOUTHPOLMAN\) Part 1](#). It outlines how Defence safeguards the health, protection and wellbeing of youth when they engage with Defence and aligns with relevant national policy, including the [Commonwealth Child Safe Framework](#) and [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#).

## What's changed?

- **A new Domain under Defence's Safety Framework:** The Defence Youth Protection Management System has been established as one of several Safety Domains to keep people safe and covers safety relating to the prevention of and response to child abuse. Chief of Joint Capabilities is responsible for this Domain.
- **New reporting and investigation processes:** All youth protection events or incidents need to be reported in Defence's Work, Health and Safety IT system, Sentinel<sup>1</sup>. Defence personnel must also complete event/incident management reporting required by their Group or Service.
- **Improved feedback mechanisms:** Defence now provides specific confidential youth complaints and feedback forms under [Contact Us](#) on the Defence Youth website.
- **Updated Suitability Screening and Working with Children Checks policy:** Defence has updated the policy and developed a new guide to make it clear when a Working with Children Check is required and by whom.

## New terms and definitions

- **Youth Protection** refers to the Defence Youth Protection Management System. It covers the protection of youth from child abuse, manages the risk of child abuse, provides support to youth at risk of child abuse and responds to incidents or allegations of child abuse.
- **Defence Youth Safety Framework** encompasses all aspects of Defence's engagement with youth to ensure their physical safety, protection and wellbeing.
- **Youth Safety** is defined as the application of the whole Defence Safety Framework to youth.
- **Youth-related work position** refers to any ADF, APS, contractor or volunteer position where the incumbent is required to undertake youth-related work as the primary duty/responsibility of the position, or provide overnight care and supervision of youth participating in a Defence Youth Program or Defence Force Recruiting activity. This term replaces the previous definition of "Youth-facing" position.

Find out more about [Defence youth engagement policies and procedures](#) at: [www.defenceyouth.gov.au](http://www.defenceyouth.gov.au) or email enquiries to: [defence.youth@defence.gov.au](mailto:defence.youth@defence.gov.au)

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<sup>1</sup> Pending Sentinel access for the ADF Cadet Organisations, this requirement is only mandatory for cadet related Class A and Class B youth protection events/incidents.

