



ACT CHILD SAFE STANDARDS SCHEME

Child Safe Standards

Meeting # 8

Date: 25/02/2026

Implementation Oversight Group

Location: Nara Centre, Room 2.10 & via TEAMS

Meeting Communiqué

On 25 February 2026, the Child Safe Standards (CSS) Implementation Oversight Group (CSSIOG) came together for its eighth meeting. The CYPC began the meeting by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which the meeting was being held, reflecting on the importance of respect in the spirit of reconciliation.

The CYPC introduced and welcomed new members, Commander Jason Kennedy (ACT Policing), Michael Simon (Anglican Diocese Canberra Goulburn), Zakia Patel (Multicultural Hub), Barb Causon (A/g Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner), Derise Cubin (WWVP Scheme), and Vicky Saunders (Institute of Child Protection Studies); and thanked all returning members for their commitment to the group.

The CYPC notes her appreciation for the contributions of members throughout the meeting, reflecting the importance of their role as critical friends, and the collective knowledge, actions, and opportunities they provide in working alongside the CYPC to support implementation of the CSS Scheme, and drive continuous improvement across all sectors involved in providing services for children and young people.

Child Safe Regulation – Reportable Conduct Scheme

The ACT Ombudsman provided an overview of the Reportable Conduct Scheme (RCS) within the context of the broader ACT child safety regulation framework. As an allegation and investigation-based scheme, the RCS maps strongly against the CSS, with particular reference to advocating a positive reporting culture (Standard 1), a focus on staff suitability (Standard 5), organisational knowledge building and feedback (Standard 7), and improvements to policies and procedures to prevent further allegations (Standard 10).

Members highlighted the complexity of balancing safety for children and young people with privacy and wellbeing of staff where there has been no adverse finding following regulatory action. Members also noted the impact of unproven or spurious allegations against staff on sector workforce sustainability, individual psychological safety, and reputation. Members agreed to meet out of session for further discussion on workforce challenges whilst not undermining the important focus of both the RCS or CSS in respect of the safety of children and young people.

Terms of Reference and Membership

The members agreed the revised Terms of Reference, which aims to support stronger, more effective sector engagement and representation.

2026 Workplan

Members considered their role as critical friends and sector leaders in the context of strengthening participation and maintaining a broad focus on the rights, safety, and wellbeing of children and young people. It was noted that social isolation, mental health, and negative narratives that devalue children and young people have contributed to an increasingly complex social environment, and the CSSIOG therefore can play an influential role within the wider system to reduce risks of harm to children and young people.

Other business

Members noted the importance of CSSIOG to influence and contribute to creating downstream positive impacts for children and young people.