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Department of Defence

**DEFGRAM 587/2015**

Issue Date: 15 December 2015

Expiry Date: 18 March 2016

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**DEFENCE YOUTH SAFETY FRAMEWORK – INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS**

1. The *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020*, endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments in April 2009, is an ambitious, long-term approach to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of Australia's children.
2. The Defence Youth Safety Framework sets out the Defence commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of young people under the age of 18. The framework focuses on the development of a Defence youth safety culture centred on addressing each of the risk factors associated with child abuse and neglect taking into account Defence training and operational requirements.
3. On completion, the Defence Youth Safety Framework will incorporate policy and procedural guidance, risk management strategies and a range of supporting tools and resources designed to minimise the risk of child abuse and neglect in each of the four contexts in which Defence interacts with children and young people under the age of 18:
  - a. Service/employment of ADF members and APS employees under the age of 18 years old;
  - b. Defence Youth Programs;
  - c. ADF Cadets; and
  - d. Domestic and international operations.
4. The framework will be launched formally in early 2016. Links to updated and new policies in the Military Personnel Policy Manual (MILPERSMAN), the Youth Policy Manual (YOUTHPOLMAN) and APS Recruitment Policy will be included.
5. Youth safety guidance, tools and resources are being developed progressively to enable early adoption of key aspects of the Framework pending completion of the entire Framework by Dec 2016.
6. In addition to the policy requirements at MILPERSMAN Part 7 Chapter 5, Commanders of units with members under the age of 18 and Managers of Defence Youth Programs should commence action now to incorporate tools and resources into extant child safety risk management plans in accordance with the implementation plan at Annex A.
7. The Framework overview will be available on the CRESO website from 16 December 2015. The Defence Youth Safety Policy Statement will be published in YOUTHPOLMAN Pt 1 before the end of 2015 and the Defence Youth Safety Code

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of Conduct and e-learning 'Safeguarding Children Awareness Package' (SCAP) will be available from mid January 16.

8. Commanders, managers and supervisors should consider incorporating the code's intent into extant unit, college, school or program codes of conduct, and introducing the SCAP as a component of 2016 staff induction activity.

9. VCDF Group will continue working with the Services and Groups to finalise the Framework. The schedule at Annex A outlines the implementation stages for each element of the Framework. Progress updates will be published on the CRESD website.

10. Until the full range of supporting guidance and resources is promulgated. Defence personnel and specified outsourced providers should apply the Framework principles with management action proportionate to the risk to youth safety and appropriate to the contexts defined at paragraph 3.

11. Additional information can be obtained by emailing [defence.youth@defence.gov.au](mailto:defence.youth@defence.gov.au) or contacting Angela Wearne, Director Cadets, Youth Engagement and Work Experience [REDACTED]



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**Annex:**

A. Defence Youth Safety Framework Implementation Schedule

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