



## Australian Army Cadets Youth Safety Code of Conduct Undertaking

1. The Australian Army Cadets (AAC) Youth Safety Code of Conduct (YSCoC) enacts the expectations of the Defence Youth Safety Code of Conduct Guide issued under the Department of Defence Youth Safety Framework. The YSCoC describes the expected standards of behaviour between adults and young people, and between young people and other young people, including online conduct, in or related to the AAC program. Further details of the YSCoC are contained in AAC Standing Orders, Volume 2, Chapter '2YSC'.

### Youth Safety Code of Conduct

2. I, the person named below, undertake to comply with the AAC YSCoC by:
- a. conducting myself in a manner consistent with Defence and AAC policy on youth safety / child protection;
  - b. taking all reasonable steps to ensure that young people are protected from any form of sexual, physical or psychological harm, or indecent and inappropriate conduct including sexual abuse or grooming for the intent of adult sexual gratification;
  - c. reporting promptly all incidents, allegations or suspicions of any form of misconduct or abuse towards young people in accordance with relevant AAC policy;
  - d. ensuring, whenever possible, that young people are not left alone with an adult except as allowed in AAC policy;
  - e. ensuring that all interactions with young people are for the sole purpose of executing authorised activities or training outcomes both on and off duty;
  - f. treating everyone with respect regardless of their age, gender, ability, race, cultural background, religious beliefs or sexual identity;
  - g. not using or disclosing personal information concerning a young person unless it is in accordance with AAC policy;
  - h. obtaining the informed consent of a young person and their parent/guardian in connection with the taking of imagery of the young person by photograph or film, and create only imagery that depicts the young person in an appropriate manner;
  - i. so far as practicable in the circumstances, not failing to provide a child with basic physical and emotional requirements (including food and water, clothing, supervision, sun protection and medical attention);
  - j. not engaging in any conduct calculated to physically harm a child (including hitting, slapping, shaking, punching, kicking and pushing, excessive physical discipline, and forcing children to participate in activities for which they are not physically capable or which are otherwise inappropriate);
  - k. not engaging in conduct calculated to psychologically harm a child (including persistent unreasonable criticism, rejection, harassment, verbal abuse, exclusion, threats, humiliation, withholding praise or unreasonable demands);
  - l. not engaging in any sexual or indecent act on or with or make any sexual threat, suggestion or comment to a child (including non-contact behaviours such as exposure to pornographic material and making sexual comments to a child, and contact behaviours such as kissing, fondling or sexual touching);
  - m. not involving children in any form of sexual or indecent activity or acts;
  - n. not accessing child pornography;

- o. as an adult involved in the AAC program:
  - (1) not sleeping in close proximity to young people, unless the Commander / Manager / Supervisor has provided approval and it is necessary and appropriate, having regard to the young people's safety and welfare;
  - (2) not inviting unaccompanied children into my home, except in an emergency;
  - (3) not having, or attempting to have, or cultivate, an intimate and / or sexual relationship with a child, regardless of the legal age of consent for a child under State / Territory law; and
  - (4) not having, or attempting to have, or cultivate, a sexual relationship with a cadet, regardless of the age of the cadet.
- p. as an adult involved in responding to or managing an allegation of a sexual relationship between an adult involved in the AAC program and a cadet or other child,:
  - (1) ensuring that the cadet / other child is made aware that he / she is entirely without blame (the adult participant in such a relationship carries the blame entirely - none whatsoever applies to the child); and
  - (2) treating and supporting the cadet / other child and his / her parents / guardians accordingly.

### Undertaking By Person

3. By signing this document, I acknowledge that I have read the AAC YSCoC above, that I understand the AAC YSCoC, and that I undertake to comply with the AAC YSCoC.

4. I understand that failure to comply with the AAC YSCoC may result in one or more of the following actions:

- a. administrative or disciplinary action under the *Defence Force Discipline Act 1982* for Australian Defence Force members;
- b. administrative or disciplinary action under the *Public Service Act 1999* for Defence Australian Public Service employees;
- c. cancellation of acceptance or status as a volunteer Officer of Cadets / Instructor of Cadets / Cadet, or the imposition of a sanction as a volunteer Officer of Cadets / Instructor of Cadets / Cadet;
- d. de-registration as a Defence Approved Helper supporting the AAC;
- e. the AAC reporting the matter to the police and / or relevant child protection authority; and / or
- f. criminal or civil action being taken against the alleged offender.

Rank / Title	Family Name	Given Name(s)	
Position Title (when applicable)		Signature	Date

### Witness

Rank / Title	Family Name	Given Name(s)	
Position Title (when applicable)		Signature	Date