Assessing Risk

Prompts for assessing risk in the Activity Risk Assessment tab

Risk Area Renamed	Replaces previous Risk Domains
People	Vulnerability and Propensity
Place	Situational
Program	Institutional

Risk Areas and Description

> **PEOPLE**
>
> Vulnerabilities such as cultural background, disability, diversity and trauma can prevent a participant from speaking up, thus increasing the likelihood of being abused.
>
> The presence of a person or cluster of persons with an increased tendency to abuse, e.g., Person of Concern, or participants with a history of abuse of perpetrating abuse.

Are there children who may be at increased risk of abuse or harm, including:
- from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds
- with a disability
- from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- who identify as LGBTIQ+
- with a history of trauma, abuse or neglect
- unable to live at home including being homeless or living in foster, residential or kinship care
- with a history of drug or alcohol dependence
- with mental, cognitive or physical health issues
- children who require support with personal care
- children who are very young
- children not aware of their right to be safe and do not know how to make a complaint
- children attending the program without parental supervision
- other factors that may make some children more vulnerable to abuse or harm
- TSA personnel who are under the age of 18 years, who may be volunteering

To mitigate risks posed by the presence of persons with an increased tendency to abuse, consider the following:
- Do all personnel meet recruitment process, (including interviews, reference checks) and integrity check requirements to engage with children?
- How is inappropriate behaviour of personnel managed?
- Are third-party contractors engaged in the program? Have they been screened for appropriateness to engage with participants?
- What level of physical contact between personnel and participant will there be as part of the program?

- Do personnel have existing, or have they developed personal relationships with participants and their families?
- Is a known Person of Concern attending the Corps or in the vicinity of the program?

PLACE

The nature of the program, environment or activity itself that has the potential to either create or increase the risk of abuse.

To mitigate risks posed by the nature of the program, environment or activity itself, consider the following:

- Exploring the layout of the location, i.e. are there any isolated areas/areas that are poorly lit/spots where there would be limited line of sight/shared spaces, e.g. pools, change/bathrooms
- A pre-visit to the location if the program is to be held off-site, e.g. rented hall, camp site, public facility, etc.)
- Will transport of children to and from the program be required? How will this be managed?
- Appropriate personnel-to-participant ratio suited to the program, (see link in form)
- Will there be any online communication with participants before or during the program – are personnel aware of appropriate management of online communication with participants?
- Is online communication between personnel and participants supervised?
- Is there a need to share information with participants on how to stay safe online?
- Is there a minimum age requirement for the proposed technology or platform?
- Will children have access to TSA devices, (computers/iPads, laptops, phone) as part of the program?
- Have parents consented to their child participating in an online program using the proposed technology/platform?
- Are there clear and understood processes in place to report abuse?
- Are personnel aware of policies and procedures that govern privacy?
- Will there be ad hoc contractors on the premises, e.g. maintenance?

PROGRAM

Risks due to TSA culture, attitudes, systems or practices that make abuse more likely to occur and less likely to be identified and effectively responded to.

Consider whether attitudes and culture increase or decrease the risk that child abuse and harm will be prevented, detected and/or stopped.
Consider whether personnel:

- see the prevention of child abuse and harm as everyone's responsibility
- prioritise the safety of children over the reputation of the organisation
- have regular one-on-one supervision with line management, which can include policy/process reminders and reflecting on practice
- listen to and empower children

- educate children about what is appropriate behaviour by adults
- understand how discrimination can cause harm to children and takes action when it occurs
- report and address inappropriate behaviour
- understand incident/emergency processes, e.g. where a child absconds
- unquestioning trust of long-term personnel and contractors or program norms
- take short cuts without thinking about the risks, e.g. lapses in supervision of children, not following all steps within procedure, etc.

- **Do policies and procedures ensure:**
- Appropriate recruitment (including Working with Children Checks and/or other screening) of staff and volunteers
- Appropriate induction, training and communication with staff and volunteers so they are aware of policies and procedures, and understand their role and responsibility to protect children from abuse and harm
- Records of the program, participants and personnel are kept
- Clear processes for reporting and responding to allegations of child abuse or harm and child safety concerns that are understood by staff, volunteers, children and families
- Child safety is prioritised in procurement of contractors

To further support child safety:
- Have personnel read, signed and understood the Code of Conduct Standard?
- Are participants aware of appropriate behaviour of TSA personnel?
- Are personnel aware of how to report allegations of child abuse or concerns for the safety and wellbeing of a child or young person?