SaferAI for Children Coalition
Terms of reference

1. Background

The SaferAI for Children Coalition ('the Coalition'), established in 2024 and convened by ICMEC Australia, is a collaborative network of child safety focused organisations, researchers, public sector leaders, and law enforcement agencies. The Coalition was formed in response to the rapidly-changing digital landscape which continues to pose new challenges in child safety.

2. Objective

The Coalition is committed to ensuring that emerging technologies – like Artificial Intelligence – serve to protect, not harm, the most vulnerable members of our community. We have the shared goal of creating a future where AI is ethically and effectively harnessed to keep children safer, online and offline. The Coalition embraces a 'sword and shield' approach to AI – acknowledging that while it can be manipulated to harm, abuse, and exploit, it can also be leveraged to protect and prevent harm to children.

3. Scope

The Coalition drives coordinated, expert-led action on issues at the intersection of child safety and AI with a primary focus on online harms. Through research, advocacy, and cross-sector collaboration the Coalition acts as a vanguard for tangible change in policy, education and awareness around emerging technologies.

4. Meetings

The SaferAI for Children Coalition meets every six to eight weeks, dependent on sector availability. Meetings are facilitated and moderated by ICMEC Australia, and are held under the Chatham House Rule.

Coalition participants are expected to attend the meetings as frequently as possible, in accordance with their participation category. The listed representative of an organisation may send a delegate in their place. Delegates must be notified to ICMEC Australia in advance to support privacy and confidentiality arrangements.

Meetings are collaborative and discussion based. If organisations are unable to participate, an alternative arrangement for engagement can be discussed with ICMEC Australia.

4.1. Quorum Requirements

For meetings to proceed as formal Coalition meetings, we aim for representation from at least one-third of member organisations. Where fewer members are present, meetings may continue as informal discussions, with any decisions endorsed at the next full meeting.

5. Roles and responsibilities

ICMEC Australia founded and leads the SaferAI for Children Coalition and is responsible for determining membership, partnerships, and guiding projects – in collaboration with Coalition members.

Members and partners of the Coalition must actively contribute their expertise to Coalition projects (subject to any legal restraints), participate in joint communications or activities where appropriate, and adhere to confidentiality and conflict of interest requirements.

Responsibilities which apply to all participants include active participation in meeting discussions and applicable projects, keeping cameras on during meetings to maintain a collaborative online environment, and complying with the Chatham House Rule. Participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed outside the meeting.

6. Membership and Composition

The SaferAI for Children Coalition is comprised of over 25 participating organisations whose work intersects with AI and child safety or online safety issues.

6.1. Eligibility criteria

- The Coalition is comprised of organisations. Private members who are not representing an organisation may be permitted under exceptional circumstances where an individual's expertise is deemed valuable at the Coalition's discretion;
- The organisation must have an intersection with technology, online safety and/or child protection; and
- The organisation must be committed to the objectives of the Coalition to the satisfaction of ICMEC Australia.

6.2. Participation Categories

There are three categories of participation within the Coalition:

1. Members
2. Partners
3. Observers

These categories are to act as guidelines for participation and may be applied flexibly in exceptional circumstances.

Members
Members are required to attend meetings according to the regular meeting cadence, participate actively in Coalition-wide projects, and maintain a collaborative attitude in coalition communications.

Members will be attributed to Coalition-wide documents and will be listed on the Coalition website hosted by ICMEC Australia, as far is possible.

Partners
As the Coalition is comprised of a wide range of organisations, there may be participants who are unable to be publicly attributed to the coalition. Partners are expected to attend meetings according to the regular cadence, actively participating in meetings and discussions.

Partners may contribute to Coalition-wide projects where appropriate, but will not be listed as contributors to projects nor listed on the Coalition website, unless by exception with the agreement of the partner.

Observers
Observers may be invited to join for part or all of a meeting on an ad-hoc basis, where their participation is relevant. In the interest of maintaining a collaborative meeting environment, observers are expected to actively participate in meetings where they are in attendance.

Unless outputs are designed expressly in collaboration with an observer, they will not be publicly attributed nor listed on the Coalition website.

6.3. Organisation withdrawal and termination

Should an organisation need to withdraw from the Coalition, it will still be recognised on all Coalition products published while it was an active participant. Attribution on the Coalition website will be removed within five business days.

Withdrawal
Organisations who wish to withdraw from the Coalition may do so by notifying ICMEC Australia of their intention to withdraw.

Termination
In cases where an organisation has breached confidentiality obligations, consistently fails to meet the requirements of their participation category or misuses their position within the Coalition, ICMEC Australia will maintain discretion to remove the organisation from the Coalition. If a Coalition participant has concerns about the conduct of another organisation, those concerns should be raised with ICMEC Australia.

7. Outputs

The Coalition drives action through the following:

- Publishing expert-led policy briefings and insights papers to guide decision-makers;
- Hosting forums with cross-sector leaders;
- Facilitating youth engagement initiatives to ensure the voices of young people are heard;
- Providing technical and strategic advice to inform ethical AI policy; and
- Promoting collaboration between government, civil society, and industry.

Revision History

	Date
Document drafted by ICMEC Australia	September 2025
Document circulated to Coalition	January 2026