

MEDIA RELEASE
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Call for National Working With Children Check Framework for Australia's Dance Education Industry

Sydney – Today, the Attorneys-Generals of Australia will meet to discuss Working With Children Checks (WWCC). Dance Arts Alliance (DAA), the peak body for dance and performing arts education, calls for urgent national reform.

Every week, nearly **half a million Australian children attend dance studios**—making dance consistently one of the **top three activities** for girls across the country, affirming dance's dominant position in organised leisure activities for youth [Creative Australia+11Dance Arts Alliance+11Dance Arts Alliance+11AIHW+1AussieTheatre.com+1](#).

DAA welcomes the national focus on child safety and urges Attorneys-General to agree on:

1. **A truly national WWCC system**, where clearance (or suspension/investigation status) is recognised by **all states and territories**, preventing individuals suspended in one jurisdiction from working anywhere else.
2. **A central register or dashboard**, visible to employers in every state, where WWCC suspensions or investigations are recorded and accessible, to block loopholes.
3. **Mandatory immediate notification obligations**: If a person is under formal investigation or their WWCC is suspended, dance studios and employers must be informed across jurisdictional lines—without delay. This includes people who are not listed as employees, as quite often, one off teachers providing masterclasses are not deemed as employees

As a not-for-profit formed in 2020 to support child safety and industry regulation, DAA has been advocating for a unified framework for WWCC since early in its formation—as reaffirmed in its January 2025 policy statement following high-profile grooming allegations in Sydney.

Vice-Chair Mike Harrison-Lamond says: “It is unacceptable that a person under investigation for child abuse or grooming in one state may simply move their work to another until a conviction comes, if ever. Australia's children deserve consistent protections nationwide—not state-by-state loopholes.”

He added:

“With hundreds of thousands of children in dance studios every week—and girls making up the vast majority—this industry must have the strongest possible safeguards. A single national WWCC system with a central register is essential to child-safe practice.”

About Dance Arts Alliance (DAA)

Founded in 2020, DAA is the peak body for Dance education in Australia. DAA advocates for a unified, professional, and safe dance and performing arts education sector across Australia. With a focus on **child safety, regulation**, and industry standards, it supports studio owners, teachers and organisations through resources, professional development and government representation [Dance Arts Alliance+11Dance Arts Alliance+11Dance Arts Alliance+11Dance Arts Alliance](#).

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Sources:

- Data from **AusPlay / AIHW** show **485,000** children participated in organised recreational dancing at least once in 2018—placing dance among the most popular youth activities nationwide [artshub.com.au+12Dance Arts Alliance+12Dance Arts Alliance+12AIHW](#).
- **Victoria-specific** figures from previous ABS reports showed around **150,000 girls** attended dance weekly, making it the top activity for girls in that state [Creative Australia](#).