

Risk Appetite Statement – DVNQ

Purpose

This statement, as part of the DVNQ Risk Management Framework, outlines the level of risk our organisation is prepared to accept across key areas to achieve our purpose while safeguarding clients, staff and organisational resources.

Risk Appetite Scale

- **Zero** – No tolerance for risk
- **Low** – Minimal risk accepted
- **Medium** – Moderate risk accepted
- **High** – Significant risk accepted for strategic benefit

1. Child Safety - Zero Risk Appetite

The safety and wellbeing of children is paramount. We have zero appetite for child safety risk and will not tolerate any practice or decision that could compromise a child's safety. Our policies, training, and monitoring ensure strict compliance with child-safe standards and continuous vigilance.

2. Fraud and Corruption - Zero Risk Appetite

Integrity is at the core of our work. We have zero tolerance for fraud and corruption and will act immediately on any suspected or actual breaches. Strict controls, transparent processes, and a culture of ethical behaviour safeguard resources and trust.

3. Legal and Regulatory - Low Risk Appetite

Compliance is non-negotiable. We have a low appetite for legal and regulatory risk and will not knowingly engage in any activity that could result in breaches. Robust policies, procedures, and training ensure adherence to legislation, funding agreements, and sector standards

4. Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) - Low Risk Appetite

We place the highest importance on the health and safety of staff, clients, and visitors. Our low appetite for WHS risk means we will avoid activities that could expose individuals to harm and maintain robust systems to identify, manage, and mitigate hazards promptly.

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5. Reputational Risk - Low Risk Appetite

Protecting our reputation is critical to maintaining trust with clients, funders, and the community. We have a low appetite for reputational risk and will avoid actions that could damage confidence in our services or values. Transparent communication, ethical decision-making, and proactive stakeholder engagement underpin our approach.

6. Financial - Medium Risk Appetite

Our organisation accepts a medium level of financial risk to balance sustainability with service delivery. We will make prudent decisions that allow flexibility for program investment while avoiding high-risk activities that could compromise funding obligations. Strong financial controls and compliance remain essential to our approach.

7. Operational - Medium Risk Appetite

Delivering safe and effective services is our priority. We have a medium appetite for operational risk, accepting some uncertainty to innovate and improve service delivery, provided risks are well managed. Strong systems, staff training, and continuous improvement processes ensure resilience and reliability.

8. Advocacy - High Risk Appetite

Advocacy is central to our mission. We have a high appetite for advocacy risk, accepting bold positions and public engagement to influence systemic change and improve outcomes for victim-survivors. While we embrace strong advocacy, we ensure alignment with our values and legal obligations.

9. Innovation - High Risk Appetite

We value creativity and progress. Our high appetite for innovation risk means we are willing to explore new approaches, technologies, and service models to enhance support for clients. Risks will be managed through planning, evaluation, and learning from outcomes.