

*For the 2013 reporting period, no assessment has been made regarding Cocos (Keeling) Islands' efforts to advance the prevention of the worst forms of child labor because 2013 is the first year suggested actions are included for the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. While there is no evidence of a problem, gaps exist in the legal framework to prevent children from involvement in the worst forms of child labor. Cocos (Keeling) Islands do not have a minimum age for hazardous work, or a list of hazardous activities which may leave children vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor.*

## I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR




There is no evidence that children on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands are engaged in the worst forms of child labor.(1, 2)

## II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Acts Interpretation Act 1901 provides that the Cocos (Keeling) Islands are part of the definition of “Australia” in the laws of Australia. Accordingly, all legislation of the federal parliament applies to these territories unless specifically excluded, including Australia’s ratification of conventions.(3)

Because Australia has ratified most key international conventions concerning child labor, the following conventions apply to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (Table 1).

**Table 1. Ratification of International Conventions on Child Labor**

Convention		Ratification
	ILO C. 138, Minimum Age	
	ILO C. 182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
	UN CRC	✓
	UN CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	✓
	UN CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	✓
	Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	✓

The Cocos (Keeling) Islands are subject to the child labor laws of the state of Western Australia.(1) The Government has established relevant laws and regulations related to child labor, including its worst forms (Table 2).

**Table 2. Laws and Regulations Related to Child Labor**

Standard	Yes/No	Age	Related Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Yes	15	Western Australia Children and Community Services Act 2004 (4)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	No		Western Australia Children and Community Services Act 2004 (4)
List of Hazardous Occupations Prohibited for Children	No		
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Commonwealth Criminal Code Act 1995 (5)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Commonwealth Criminal Code Act 1995 (5)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Western Australia Prostitution Act of 2000 (1, 6, 7); Western Australia Children and Community Services Act and the federally enacted Commonwealth Criminal Code Act 1995 of Australia (4, 5, 8)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	Yes		Commonwealth Criminal Code Act 1995 (5)
Minimum Age for Voluntary Military Service	Combat:	18	Australian Defense Force (9)
	Yes		
	Non-Combat: Yes	17	

# Cocos (Keeling) Islands

NO ASSESSMENT

NON-INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

**Table 2. Laws and Regulations Related to Child Labor (cont)**

Standard	Yes/No	Age	Related Legislation
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	17	Western Australia School Education Act (1, 10-12)
Free Public Education	Yes		Western Australia School Education Act (1, 10-12)

No information was found on whether any laws define hazardous work or establish a minimum age for it.

## III. ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

Even though there is no evidence of a problem, the Government of Australia has established institutional mechanisms for the enforcement of laws and regulations on child labor, including its worst forms, which apply to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (Table 3).

**Table 3. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement**

Organization/Agency	Role
Australian Federal Police, the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, and the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development	Enforce criminal laws related to the worst forms of child labor.(6, 12)
Australian Federal Police	Investigate the commercial sexual exploitation of children, including pornography.(1, 6)
Australian Federal Police: Human Trafficking Teams	Maintain jurisdiction in trafficking matters and investigate human trafficking for the purpose of transnational sexual and labor exploitation.(1, 8)
Australian Federal Police: Child Protection Operations Team	Investigate and coordinate multijurisdictional and online child sex exploitation.(1, 6, 8)
Department of Child Protection	Issue orders to stop a child from working if there is a risk of harm.(1, 6)

## IV. COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

As there is no evidence of a problem, there appears to be no need for coordinating mechanisms to address child labor, including its worst forms.

## V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

As there is no evidence of a problem, there appears to be no need for government policies to address the worst forms of child labor, in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

## VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

As there is no evidence of a problem, there appears to be no need for social programs to address the worst forms of child labor, in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

## VII. SUGGESTED GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO PREVENT THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

Based on the reporting above, suggested actions are identified that would advance the continued prevention of child labor, including its worst forms, in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (Table 4).

**Table 4. Suggested Government Actions to Prevent Child Labor, Including its Worst Forms**

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Laws	Clarify whether the Cocos (Keeling) Islands have codified a list of hazardous activities prohibited for children under age 18.	2013
	Clarify whether the Cocos (Keeling) Islands have established a minimum age for hazardous work.	2013

## REFERENCES

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2. U.S. Embassy- Canberra. *reporting, January 17, 2014.*
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12. U.S. Embassy- Canberra. *reporting, February 11, 2011.*