

Working with Children Overview

The information is provided as a resource guide only for broker members partaking in Global Money Week. Information is current at the time of publishing. The information provided is a summarised version of information provided by the regulatory unit's websites. The aim is to share relevant information and guidelines for applying for a Working with Children (WWC) check or the state/territory equivalent.

Please note the following information was gathered from the individual state and territory websites and their respective unit that regulates and issues these checks. MFAA does not have any direct affiliations with these regulatory bodies.

Individuals and organisations are encouraged to check the currency of any information that is provided by contacting the MFAA Marketing department. If you have any questions or if you would like to share relevant and valid information to contribute, please contact Sabrina Cortez via email: sabrina@mfaa.com.au

Child-related screening programs in Australia

Contents Table

1. [Australian Capital Territory](#)
2. [New South Wales](#)
3. [Northern Territory](#)
4. [Queensland](#)
5. [South Australia](#)
6. [Tasmania](#)
7. [Victoria](#)
8. [Western Australia](#)

Child Safety Checks and Police-related Clearances

In Australia, there is no single uniform framework for obtaining Working with Children Checks or Police Checks in the case an individual engages in child-related work. Each state and territory has their own procedures and you will be required to fulfil the requirements in the jurisdiction that you will be working in.

The requirements for child-related employment pre-screening usually consist of assessments of individual records, an assessment of the nature of the child-related work and potentially police or court related documents. Most states and territories have introduced legislation for child-related employment screening with each legislation having important differences in the types of screening programs in place, the process for application and the general requirements.

Please refer to the below jurisdictions to determine what requirements and guidelines are relevant to you.

At this stage, there are three different types of screening processes for child-related employment in Australia.

The first is an employer-driven system. The system has mandatory requirements for employers to carry out background checks on all prospective employees or volunteers. South Australia is the only state currently using this program. The system requires individuals to undergo a "point-in-time" background check and screening every time they enter into child-related position.

The second and most common type of screening program is individual-based. In NSW, NT, QLD, VIC and WA, certification is offered to those individuals who will engage in child-related work, either paid or volunteer work. Usually, these certificates are valid for a certain period of time and provide for ongoing monitoring of an individual's suitability for child-related work.¹ According to the Child Family Community Australia, individuals can also carry on their certification between positions and working environments within the valid

period of time. Individuals with these state/territory related certifications will not need to undergo repeat screening, given they meet the requirements of the state/territory that they are working in.

The third type of screening program for child-related work is the Working with Vulnerable People Background Check. This program usually operates in the ACT and is a mix of the individual based and the employer-driven screening programs. The program usually provides three types of certifications based on the suitability of individuals.ⁱⁱ

- The first “ general” certification requires individuals have a three year valid certification, be subject to ongoing monitoring and screening checks between role positions
- The second certification is role-based and works similarly to the point-in-time check. This will restrict individuals to regulated activities with the stated employer. People with the Working with Vulnerable People Background Check, in ACT, may be required to undergo a Check every time they enter a child-related work.
- The third type of certification is conditional and will be depend on specific conditions on an individual’s registration. This may or may not involve documentation or information sought from courts or the police.

Australian Capital Territory

ACT Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) Application Overview:

For further information on the Working with Vulnerable People overview in ACT, please contact:

Access Canberra Contact Centre

Postal Address: GPO Box 158, Canberra City ACT 2601

Phone: 13 22 81

Website: <https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au>

New South Wales

NSW Working with Children (WWC) Check Overview

For further information on the NSW Working with Children (WWC), please contact:

Office of the Children’s Guardian

Street Address: 418A Elizabeth St, Surry Hills NSW 2010

Phone: 02 8219 3600

Fax: 02 8219 3699

Email: kids@kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au

Website: <http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/working-with-children/working-with-children-check>

Northern Territory

NT Working with Children Clearance (WWC) Notice Overview:

For further information on the NT Working with Children (WWC), please contact:

The Screening Assessment for Employment Northern Territory

Street Address: Ground Floor 77 Smith Street, Darwin NT

Postal Address: PO Box 39764, Winnellie NT 0821

Phone: 1800 SAFE NT (1800 72 33 68)

Email: safent.police@pfes.nt.gov.au

Website: <http://www.workingwithchildren.nt.gov.au/>

Queensland

For further information on the QLD Blue Card system, please contact:

Blue Card Services

Street Address: Level 17, 53 Albert Street Brisbane, Queensland 4000

Phone: 07 3211 6999

Please send enquiries to appropriate enquiry forms here: https://www.bluecard.qld.gov.au/contact_form.aspx

Website: <https://www.bluecard.qld.gov.au/>

South Australia

For further information on the SA child-related screening process, please contact:

The Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI) Screening Unit

Street Address: Level 8, Riverside Centre North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000

Post Address: GPO 292, Adelaide SA 5001

Phone: 08 8226 8800

Fax: 08 8413 9002

Email: enquiries@dcsi.sa.gov.au

Website: <https://www.dcsi.sa.gov.au/services/screening>

Tasmania

For further information on the TAS Working with Children (WWC), please contact:

Working with Children Unit

Department of Justice, Tasmania

Online enquiries via: http://www.justice.tas.gov.au/working_with_children/contact

Website: http://www.justice.tas.gov.au/working_with_children

Victoria

For further information on the VIC Working with Children (WWC), please contact:

Working with Children Check Unit

Department of Justice and Regulation

Postal Address: GPO Box 1915 Melbourne VIC 3001

Phone: 1300 652 879

Email: workingwithchildren@justice.vic.gov.au

Website: <http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/>

Western Australia

For further information on the WA Working with Children (WWC), please contact:

Further Information:

The Working with Children Screening Unit

Postal Address: PO Box 1262 West Perth WA 6872

Phone: 08 6217 8100 / 1800 883 979

Email: checkquery@cpfs.wa.gov.au

Website: <http://www.checkwwc.wa.gov.au/checkwwc>

Evidence

ⁱ Australian Institute of Family Services – Child Family Community Australia', Available at: <https://aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/pre-employment-screening-working-children-checks-and-police-checks>, 2014, (Accessed on 2 November 2015)

ⁱⁱ Ibid