



# Working with children check

## Information kit



Government of South Australia

Department of Human Services

## **Disclaimer**

The material in this information kit is a general guide only.

It is not legal advice. It does not supersede the responsibility of any organisation or individual to make sure they adhere to the new screening laws.

The information in the kit may change without notice.

## Changes to screening

South Australia has introduced stronger, more effective, and transparent screening laws for people working or volunteering with children.

The new laws mean that, from 1 July 2019, everyone working or volunteering with children must have valid child-related screening.

These changes were recommended as part of South Australian and federal royal commissions, to help keep children safe in our communities.

The new working with children check (WWCC) that is being introduced from 1 July 2019 replaces the current system, where people can have either a Department of Human Services (DHS) child-related employment screening, or a National Police Certificate assessed by their employer/volunteer-involving organisation.

Key changes include:

- WWCCs replace all other types of child-related employment screening checks.
- people can apply for their own WWCC, to help them be job-ready
- organisations can no longer use National Police Certificates for

people working or volunteering with children. Only the South Australian Department of Human Services (DHS) Screening Unit can do a WWCC.

- a WWCC is valid for five years and is portable across organisations and roles in South Australia.

There will be transitional arrangements to make it easier for people to move to the new scheme.

- All current, valid DHS/DCSI child-related employment screening clearances will be recognised as WWCCs under the law, until they expire.
- Certain industries will have staggered entry times to the new scheme, to help them transition smoothly.
- National Police Certificates assessed by organisations are valid for working with children until 1 July 2020.

For most people working or volunteering with children, the transitional arrangements mean they **don't need to do anything to be ready** for the new laws starting on 1 July 2019.

## About this kit

This kit is for South Australian government agencies, industry sectors, peak bodies and organisations that have members, employees or volunteers that work with children.

The first section of the kit includes detailed information about the new WWCC, to help you understand what your organisation, employees and volunteers need to do to meet requirements of the new screening laws, and to help you answer their questions.

The second section of the kit includes a variety of communication tools you can share with your workers, volunteers or stakeholders. Tools include:

- key messages
- newsletter/website editorial
- fact sheet
- social media graphics and suggested content
- web graphics
- posters
- infographic
- PowerPoint slides.

## Download the communications tools

You can download the visual communication tools in this kit from <https://adobe.ly/2Yt9ZAx>

If you would like any of the tools tailored for your audience, e.g. using specific images, please email [wwcc@sa.gov.au](mailto:wwcc@sa.gov.au).

## Community education

The DHS Screening Unit is doing an extensive education campaign with community and industry groups. It will target specific sectors that need to move to the new check, to help them transition smoothly.

A community media campaign is running across South Australia from mid-May, including press, radio, online and social media promotions.

## Keep up to date



Visit [screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](https://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc)



Join the WWCC news mailing list, by emailing [wwcc@sa.gov.au](mailto:wwcc@sa.gov.au)

Follow us on social media – we're on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram at:



/HumanServicesSA

## Contact the DHS Screening Unit

Business hours are Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Telephone: 1300 321 592

WWC email: [wwcc@sa.gov.au](mailto:wwcc@sa.gov.au)

General enquiries email: [DHSscreeningunit@sa.gov.au](mailto:DHSscreeningunit@sa.gov.au)

The DHS Screening Unit website ([screening.sa.gov.au](https://screening.sa.gov.au)) includes information about:

- who needs a WWCC
- how to apply for a WWCC
- the WWCC screening process
- information assessed as part of WWCC
- checking progress of an application
- legislation and policies.

# Questions and answers

*The information in this section aims to give you some background detail about the changes, and help you answer any questions your staff or volunteers may ask. If you have any questions that aren't answered here, please email us at [wwcc@sa.gov.au](mailto:wwcc@sa.gov.au)*

In this section

- The law
- About WWCCs
- Who needs a WWCC?
- WWCC application process
- Organisations
- Volunteers
- National Disability Insurance Scheme

## The law

### What is the law?

From 1 July 2019, people working or volunteering with children in South Australia must, by law, have a valid child-related clearance.

### Why make a different check for working or volunteering with children?

The WWCC is being introduced to help keep children safe in our communities. The change is part of the Government of South Australia's response to recommendations in the [Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse](#) and the South Australian [Child Protection Systems Royal Commission](#) (also known as the Nyland Report).

### What legislation directs the new screening laws?

The requirement to have a valid child-related clearance from 1 July 2019, such as a WWCC, is covered by the following legislation:

- [Child Safety \(Prohibited Persons\) Act 2016](#) (the Prohibited Persons Act)
- [Children's Protection Law Reform \(Transitional Arrangements and Related Amendments\) Act 2017](#) (the Transition Act)
- [Child Safety \(Prohibited Persons\) Regulations 2019](#)

### What are the transition arrangements?

- People who have a current, valid DHS/DCSI child-related employment screening will be able to keep using it until it expires. After 1 July 2019, they can apply for a WWCC up to six months before their current screening expires.
- People who have a National Police Certificate assessed by their organisation and use it to work or volunteer with children will have until 1 July 2020 to get a WWCC.
- Emergency services workers (such as SAMFS, SASES, SACFS and SAAS) will have until 1 July 2022 to get a WWCC.
- People who have a professional registration and work with children must get a WWCC before they renew their current professional registration, or as their current child-related employment screening

expires, whichever comes first. This includes:

- teachers
- health practitioners
- passenger transport services workers
- approved foster parents or people licenced as a foster carer agency.

### **Transition periods by role type**

#### **Workers or volunteers with a current, valid child-related DHS/DCSI employment screening**

Can be used until it expires, then they must get a WWCC.

#### **Workers/volunteers with a National Police Certificate assessed by their organisation**

Must get a WWCC by 1 July 2020.

#### **Emergency services workers (e.g. MFS, SES, CFS, SAAS) who have regular contact with children**

Must get a WWCC by 1 July 2022.

#### **Registered teachers**

Will be notified to get a WWCC before their current teacher registration expires.

Transition period will roll over three years (e.g. January 2020, January 2021, January 2022).

#### **Registered health practitioners providing services to children**

Registered health practitioners must get a WWCC before their current professional registration expires.

#### **Foster parents who have a child-related employment screening**

Foster carers must get a WWCC before their current period of approval as an approved carer expires or their child-related employment screening expires, whichever comes first.

#### **People who are licenced as a foster care agency and have a child-related employment screening**

People licenced as a foster care agency must get a WWCC before the current period of their licence as a foster care agency expires or their child-related employment screening expires, whichever comes first.

#### **People with a licence to maintain a children's residential facility and have a child-related employment screening**

People with a licence to maintain a children's residential facility must get a WWCC before the current period of their licence expires or their child-related employment screening expires, whichever comes first.

#### **Persons employed in a training centre and have a child-related employment screening**

People employed in training centres must get a WWCC before their child-related employment screening expires.

#### **Passenger transport services workers**

Passenger transport workers who work with children must get a WWCC before their current transport accreditation or their child-related employment screening expires, whichever comes first.

## What is illegal from 1 July 2019 when it comes to working with children?

Some work-types that didn't require checks to work with children under the old laws may now need a working with children check.

From 1 July 2019, it is an offence to:

- work or volunteer in a child-related role without a working with children check
- work or volunteer in a child-related role if a person is 'prohibited from working with children'
- employ a person or volunteer for a child-related role who doesn't have a valid working with children check, or is prohibited from working with children.

Offences carry fines of up to \$120,000 and/or prison sentence.

## About WWCCs

### What are the main differences between existing child-related employment screening and a WWCC?

- People can apply for their own WWCC, to help them be job-ready. Currently, child-related employment screening applications have to be started by an organisation.
- A WWCC is valid for five years, whereas a child-related employment screening is valid for three years.
- Organisations can no longer do background screening checks of workers and volunteers. Only the South Australian Department of

Human Services (DHS) Screening Unit can do a WWCC.

- From 1 July 2019, it will be a criminal offence to work or volunteer with children without a valid child-related clearance, such as a WWCC. It will also be an offence to employ a person or volunteer who doesn't have a valid clearance or is prohibited from working with children.

### How long is a WWCC valid?

A WWCC will be valid for five years (up from three).

### What if someone gets a WWCC and then commits an offence?

The DHS Screening Unit continuously monitors information that may affect a person's WWCC status. The system helps reduce the risk of harm to children and vulnerable people.

The DHS Screening Unit receives information from a range of databases, which is automatically searched for any new information relevant to a person's WWCC status. This includes South Australian criminal history and child protection information.

If the new information means a person poses a risk to children, their status will change to **prohibited from working or volunteering with children**. The DHS Screening Unit will advise the person and organisation(s) that has verified the person works or volunteers with them, in writing.

## Who needs a WWCC?

### Who must have a WWCC?

People need a WWCC if they are in a 'prescribed position'. This means people:

- in paid or volunteering roles where it is reasonably foreseeable that they will work with children
- running or managing a business where the employees or volunteers work with children
- employed to provide preschool, primary or secondary education to a child.

### Who does not need a WWCC?

A person does not need a WWCC if they:

- work for SA Police or the Australian Federal Police
- employ or supervise children in a workplace, unless the work is child-related (e.g. managing a fast food restaurant that employs people under 18)
- work in the same capacity as a child, (e.g. working at a checkout in a supermarket that also hires people under 18 in the same type of role)
- don't reasonably believe they will work with children for more than seven days (consecutive or not) in a calendar year\*
- are a parent or guardian volunteering with their own child (e.g. at school) and do not have close personal contact with other children, or participate in an organised overnight event (e.g. a school camp)
- live interstate, have a current child-related check from their home state, and are working at an organised

event in South Australia lasting no more than 10 consecutive days

- are under the age of 14.

\*The seven day exclusion does not apply if the person is involved with an overnight activity (e.g. school camp), or has close contact with children with disability.

### Does the person (e.g. the employee or volunteer) have a current check?

- If the person has a **current, valid DHS/DCSI child-related employment screening**, they can keep using it until it expires. They can apply for a WWCC up to six months before their current screening expires. They do not have to do anything immediately.
- If the person has a **National Police Certificate** assessed by their organisation and uses it to work or volunteer with children, they will have until 1 July 2020 to get a WWCC. They do not have to do anything immediately.
- If the person has a **professional registration** and works with children, they must get a WWCC before they renew their current professional registration, or as their current child-related employment screening expires, whichever comes first. They may not have to do anything immediately. This includes:
  - teachers
  - health practitioners who work with children
  - passenger transport services workers
  - approved foster parents or people licenced as a foster carer agency.

- If the person **does not have a current check**, they can't work or volunteer with children from 1 July 2019 until they have a valid check.

Their options are:

- have their organisation apply for a DHS child-related employment screening before 1 July 2019
- wait until 1 July 2019 to apply for a WWCC themselves.

### How can someone find out if they have a current check?

DHS/DCSI child-related employment screening clearances are valid for three years. If a person has previously had a screening clearance, they will have received a letter notifying them of the outcome. If they do not have a copy of the letter, an organisation can check if a clearance is still valid via the DHS Screening Unit portal at [screening.sa.gov.au](http://screening.sa.gov.au).

A National Police Certificate assessed by an organisation is a point-in-time check of someone's criminal history; as such, it does not have a set end date.

### Do teachers need a WWCC?

Under the Prohibited Persons Act, teachers are no longer exempt from worker screening and will be required to have a WWCC.

Teachers must get a WWCC before they renew their teacher registration. They can use their current child-related employment clearance until it expires. Then they need a WWCC. The WWCC for teachers is in addition to a National Police Certificate assessed by the Teacher Registration Board.

### Do all health professionals need a WWCC?

Anyone who works with children in a health service needs a WWCC.

### WWCC application process

#### How does someone get a WWCC?

From 1 July 2019, people can apply online for a WWCC at [screening.sa.gov.au](http://screening.sa.gov.au)

#### How long does it take to get a WWCC?

Currently, most screening applications are finalised within three weeks. It can take longer if there is a lot of background information to assess or the information is complex.

Processing can take longer than three weeks if:

- the person has relevant criminal history
- other agencies (e.g. police, other government departments) or individual applicants take a long time to provide information to the DHS Screening Unit.

In the lead-up to 1 July 2019 and once the new law starts, the DHS Screening Unit is expecting an increased number of applications. To avoid delays:

- don't leave an application until the last minute – if applying for a child-related employment screening (or a WWCC after 1 July 2019), allow at least six weeks for processing
- ensure the information provided in the application is accurate and complete

- encourage applicants to check email regularly, in case the DHS Screening Unit needs more information about the application.

## What information is assessed for a WWCC?

The DHS Screening Unit assesses national criminal history, South Australian child protection information, and disciplinary and misconduct information.

## Are there any offences that mean someone will automatically be prohibited from working or volunteering with children?

People who have been prohibited from working with children in another state or territory or have been convicted of a 'prescribed offence' where the victim is a child will be automatically prohibited from working with children. A prescribed offence may include murder, manslaughter, kidnapping, incest or rape.

## What does a WWCC cost?

The state government determines the cost of government services, including screening, each financial year. As the new WWCC starts on 1 July 2019, its fee for 2019/20 hasn't yet been determined. However, as a guide, it will follow the same fee structure as the current DHS child-related employment screening, which is \$107.80 for 2018/19.

If a WWCC is only for volunteer work, it will continue to be free, just like other types of screening checks for volunteers.

All current screening fees are published on the DHS Screening Unit website, [screening.sa.gov.au](http://screening.sa.gov.au)

## Who pays for a WWCC?

People will need to pay for their own WWCC, unless the organisation they're working for chooses to pay for it. People are encouraged to confirm with their organisation who is paying before submitting an application, as there are no refunds.

Payments can be made online via credit card or pre-paid credit card. Organisations that have an account with the DHS Screening Unit can pay via invoice.

## How can someone check the status of a WWCC?

From 1 July 2019, when a person applies for a WWCC, they will be assigned a unique identification number as part of the application process. They can use this number to search the DHS Screening Unit database in future, or provide this number to organisations who want to search the DHS Screening Unit database.

There is no letter, card or certificate associated with a WWCC.

The DHS Screening Unit will notify people when their WWCC is reaching its five-year expiry date and they need to renew it.

## Organisations

### Are organisations obliged to do anything under the law?

- Before engaging a person, organisations must ensure the potential employee or volunteer has had a WWCC. They must also provide certain information, such as their contact details, to the DHS Screening Unit.

- Where an organisation continues to engage a person, they must ensure their WWCC remains current at all times.
- Organisations must notify the DHS Screening Unit of certain information about a person, e.g. if the organisation becomes aware of criminal charges relating to an employee or volunteer, or if a person is prohibited from working with children in another state or territory. They can report this information by logging into the DHS Screening Unit online portal.
- Organisations need to verify their employees or volunteers with a WWCC via the DHS Screening Unit online portal. Multiple organisations can link to a person. If the person's WWCC status changes, organisations that have verified the person will be notified.

Offences will apply where organisations fail to meet these obligations.

### Does the DHS Screening Unit send reminders to organisations?

If an organisation has verified their link to a person via the DHS Screening Unit portal, they will be notified when the person is reaching the five-year expiry date of their WWCC.

## Volunteers

### Do volunteers have to pay for WWCCs?

If a WWCC is only being used for volunteering purposes, the volunteer will receive it for free.

A volunteer screening cannot be used for paid employment or work placements. If a person also needs a WWCC for paid employment (e.g. they work with children for more than seven days in a calendar year), they will need to pay for a WWCC.

### Will volunteer-involving organisations still be able to access VOAN after 1 July 2019?

From 1 July 2019, volunteer-involving organisations will still be able to access free National Police Certificates through SA Police.

## National Disability Insurance Scheme

### Will disability/NDIS worker screening be recognised as a WWCC?

When NDIS worker screening starts, people wanting to work with children with disability will need a WWCC **as well as** an NDIS worker screening.

This meets national requirements of NDIS worker checks that all jurisdictions are implementing.

There are some differences in the information assessed for the two checks. Specifically, NDIS Commission information is currently only available for risk assessments of NDIS worker checks.

The DHS Screening Unit will streamline application processes for people who need both checks

# Communication tools



Download the visual communication tools in this kit:  
<https://adobe.ly/2Yt9ZAx>

If you would like any of the tools tailored for your audience,  
e.g. using specific images, please email [wwcc@screening.sa.gov.au](mailto:wwcc@screening.sa.gov.au)



## Key messages

*Please use these key messages consistently across your communication materials and channels when you're helping staff and volunteers who work with children to understand changes to screening laws.*

- South Australia has introduced stronger, transparent and more effective screening laws for people working or volunteering with children.
- From 1 July 2019, people working or volunteering with children in South Australia must, by law, have a valid child-related clearance.
- Under the new law, people who have a current, valid DHS/DCSI child-related employment screening will be able to keep using it until it expires. From 1 July 2019, they can apply for a working with children check up to six months before their child-related employment screening expires.
- People who have a National Police Certificate assessed by their organisation and use it to work or volunteer with children will have until 1 July 2020 to get a working with children check.
- Certain industries will have staggered entry times to the new scheme, to help them transition smoothly.
- For most people working or volunteering with children, the transitional arrangements mean they don't need to do anything to be ready for the new laws starting on 1 July 2019.
- A working with children check is valid for five years and is portable across roles and organisations in South Australia.
- Working with children checks replace all other types of child-related employment screening checks.
- Working with children checks are free for people who are only using them for volunteering work.
- People can apply for their own working with children check, to help them be job-ready.
- Organisations can no longer do background screening checks for employees and volunteers who work with children.
- The South Australian Department of Human Services (DHS) Screening Unit is the only service that can do a working with children check.
- A working with children check is an assessment of a person's prior behaviour. It doesn't determine a person's suitability to work with children – organisations still need to decide if a potential employee or volunteer is a good fit for the role.
- People who apply for a working with children check will be given a unique identification number that organisations can use to find out their check status. There is no letter, card or certificate associated with a working with children check.
- The working with children check is being introduced to help keep children safe in our communities. The change is part of the Government of South Australia's response to recommendations in the [Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse](#) and the South Australian [Child Protection Systems Royal Commission](#) (also known as the Nyland Report).

## Newsletter/website editorial

*You can publish this editorial through internal communications, newsletters and other communications with your staff, workers, members and volunteers.*

### Helping keep children safe through new screening laws

Stronger, more effective and transparent screening laws for people working or volunteering with children have been introduced in South Australia.

The new screening laws were recommended as part of federal and South Australian royal commissions, to help keep children safe in our communities.

From 1 July 2019, the state's current system for child-related employment screening will be replaced with a working with children check (WWCC).

**The new laws mean that, from 1 July 2019, everyone working or volunteering with children must have a valid child-related check.**

Under the new scheme, people can apply for a WWCC themselves, as opposed to the previous system where organisations had to initiate screening applications.

This means people looking to enter child-related work industries can be work-ready.

A WWCC is valid for five years and is portable across roles and organisations throughout South Australia.

Current, valid child-related employment screening checks done by DHS/DCSI will be recognised as a WWCC until they expire.

There will be a 12 month transition period for most people affected by the new laws – such as those people with a National Police Certificate assessed by their organisation – to allow them to enter the new WWCC scheme smoothly.

For most people, this means they don't need to do anything to be ready for the new law starting on 1 July 2019.

For more information, visit the DHS Screening website [screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc).

# Fact sheet

## New working with children checks



South Australia has introduced stronger, transparent and more effective screening laws for people working or volunteering with children.

The new laws mean that, from 1 July 2019, everyone working or volunteering with children must have a valid clearance, such as a new working with children check (WWCC).

### Why has the law changed?

The WWCC is being introduced to help keep children safe in our communities. The change is part of the Government of South Australia's response to recommendations in the *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse* and the *South Australian Child Protection Systems Royal Commission* (also known as the Nyland Report).

### Who needs a WWCC?

People need a WWCC if they are in a 'prescribed position'. This means people who:

- are in paid or volunteering roles where it is reasonably foreseeable that they will work with children
- run or manage a business where the employees or volunteers work with children
- are employed to provide preschool, primary or secondary education to a child.

### Who does not need a WWCC?

A person does not need a WWCC if they:

- work for SA Police or the Australian Federal Police
- employ or supervise children in a workplace, unless the work is child-related (e.g. managing a fast food restaurant that employs people under 18)

- work in the same capacity as a child (e.g. working at a checkout in a supermarket that also hires people under 18 in the same type of role)
- don't reasonably believe they will work with children for more than seven days (consecutive or not) in a calendar year\*
- are a parent or guardian volunteering with their own child (e.g. at school) and do not have close personal contact with other children, or participate in an organised overnight event (e.g. a school camp)
- live interstate, have a current child-related check from their home state, and are working at an organised event in South Australia lasting no more than 10 consecutive days.
- are under the age of 14.

\*The seven day exclusion does not apply if the person is involved with an overnight activity (e.g. school camp), or has close contact with children with disability.

### Do people who already have a check need a new one?

Under the new law, people who have a current, valid DHS/DCSI child-related employment screening can keep using it until it expires. Then they will need to get a WWCC. They can apply for a WWCC up to six months before their child-related employment screening expires.

People who have a National Police Certificate assessed by their organisation and use it to work or volunteer with children have until 1 July 2020 to get a WWCC.

People with current professional registrations, e.g. teachers, health practitioners and passenger transport service workers, must get a WWCC before they renew their professional registration.

Emergency Services workers who work with children have until 1 July 2022 to get a WWCC.

### What if someone who works or volunteers with children doesn't have a check?

Some work-types that didn't require checks to work with children under the old laws may now have to have a working with children check.

If someone who works or volunteers with children does not have a current check, their options are:

- have their organisation apply for a DHS child-related employment screening before 1 July 2019
- wait until 1 July 2019 to apply for a WWCC themselves.

From 1 July 2019 people can't work or volunteer with children unless they have a valid check. It is an offence to:

- work or volunteer in a child-related role without a working with children check
- work or volunteer in a child-related role if a person is 'prohibited from working with children'
- employ a person or volunteer for a child-related role who doesn't have a valid working with children check, or is prohibited from working with children.

Offences carry fines of up to \$120,000 and/or prison sentences.

### How does someone get a WWCC?

From 1 July 2019, people can apply online for a WWCC at [screening.sa.gov.au](http://screening.sa.gov.au)

### How long does it take to get a WWCC?

Currently, most screening applications are finalised within three weeks. It can take longer if there is a lot of background information to assess or the information is complex.

In the lead-up to 1 July 2019 and once the new law starts, the DHS Screening Unit is expecting an increased number of applications. Don't leave applications until the last minute – allow a minimum of six weeks for processing.

### How long is a WWCC valid?

A WWCC is valid for five years (up from three).

### What if someone gets a WWCC and then commits an offence?

The DHS Screening Unit continuously monitors information that may affect a person's WWCC status. The system helps reduce the risk of harm to children and vulnerable people.

The DHS Screening Unit receives information from a range of databases, which is automatically searched for any new information relevant to a person's WWCC status.

If the new information means a person poses a risk to children, their status will change to **prohibited from working or volunteering with children**. The DHS Screening Unit will advise the person and organisation(s) that has verified the person works or volunteers with them, in writing.

### What does a WWCC cost?

The Government of South Australia determines the cost of government services, including screening, each financial year. As the new WWCC starts on 1 July 2019, its fee for 2019/20 hasn't yet been determined. However, as a guide, it will follow the same fee structure as the current DHS child-related employment screening, which is \$107.80 for 2018/19.

If a WWCC is only for volunteer work, it will continue to be free, just like other types of screening checks for volunteers.

All current screening fees are published on the DHS Screening Unit website, [screening.sa.gov.au](http://screening.sa.gov.au)

### For more information

The DHS Screening Unit website ([screening.sa.gov.au](http://screening.sa.gov.au)) includes information about:

- who needs a WWCC
- how to apply for a WWCC
- the WWCC screening process
- information assessed as part of WWCC
- checking progress of an application
- legislation and policies.

### Contact the DHS Screening Unit

Business hours are Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

1300 321 592

WWCC enquiries: [wwcc@screening.sa.gov.au](mailto:wwcc@screening.sa.gov.au)

General enquiries: [DHSscreeningunit@sa.gov.au](mailto:DHSscreeningunit@sa.gov.au)

[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/HumanServicesSA) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/HumanServicesSA) [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/human-services-sa) [Twitter](https://www.twitter.com/HumanServicesSA) /HumanServicesSA

# Social media graphics and content

From May 2019, the Department of Human Services will start promoting working with children checks via /HumanServicesSA on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

You can share these posts or, if you prefer, spread the word through your own social media channels using the following graphics and messages.

## Facebook graphics



# Twitter graphics



**Do you work or volunteer with children?**

New working with children checks are law from 1 July 2019

Check what to do:  
[screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc)

Government of South Australia  
Department of Human Services



**Do you work or volunteer with children?**

New working with children checks are law from 1 July 2019

Check what to do:  
[screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc)

Government of South Australia  
Department of Human Services



**Do you work or volunteer with children?**

New working with children checks are law from 1 July 2019

Check what to do:  
[screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc)

Government of South Australia  
Department of Human Services



**Do you work or volunteer with children?**

New working with children checks are law from 1 July 2019

Check what to do:  
[screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc)

Government of South Australia  
Department of Human Services



**Do you work or volunteer with children?**

New working with children checks are law from 1 July 2019

Check what to do:  
[screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc)

Government of South Australia  
Department of Human Services



**Do you work or volunteer with children?**

New working with children checks are law from 1 July 2019

Check what to do:  
[screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc)

Government of South Australia  
Department of Human Services



**Do you work or volunteer with children?**

New working with children checks are law from 1 July 2019

Check what to do:  
[screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc)

Government of South Australia  
Department of Human Services



**Do you work or volunteer with children?**

New working with children checks are law from 1 July 2019

Check what to do:  
[screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc)

Government of South Australia  
Department of Human Services



**Do you work or volunteer with children?**

New working with children checks are law from 1 July 2019

Check what to do:  
[screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc)

Government of South Australia  
Department of Human Services



**Do you work or volunteer with children?**

New working with children checks are law from 1 July 2019

Check what to do:  
[screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc)

Government of South Australia  
Department of Human Services

# Messages

## Long form – Facebook and Twitter

- Everyone who works or volunteers with children must have a valid check, by law, before 1 July 2019. It's about helping to keep children safe in our communities.

If you've got a current child-related employment screening or a National Police Certificate assessed by your organisation, you may not need to do anything yet.

Find out more about the new working with children check and when to apply at [screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc)

- Do you need a working with children check?

Everyone who works or volunteers with children must have a valid check, by law, before 1 July 2019. It's about helping to keep children safe in our communities.

If you've got a current child-related employment screening or a National Police Certificate assessed by your organisation, you may not need to do anything yet.

Find out more about the new working with children check and when to apply at [screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc)

- Time to check you can volunteer or work with children.

Everyone who works or volunteers with children must have a valid check, by law, before 1 July 2019. It's about helping to keep children safe in our communities.

If you've got a current child-related employment screening or a National Police Certificate assessed by your organisation, you may not need to do anything yet.

Find out more about the new working with children check and when to apply at [screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc)

- Even if you've had a police check, you'll need a new check if you want to work or volunteer with children.

Everyone who works or volunteers with children must have a valid check, by law, before 1 July 2019. It's about helping to keep children safe in our communities. You can use a National Police Certificate assessed by your organisation until 1 July 2020, but you'll need the new check before that time.

Find out how to get the new working with children check and when to apply at [screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc)

- What do sports coaches, bus drivers, party entertainers, ministers of religion and emergency workers have in common? Hint: it's got nothing to do with distinctive outfits.

From 1 July 2019, everyone who works or volunteers with children must, by law have a valid check. It's about helping to keep children safe in our communities.

If you've got a current child-related employment screening or a National Police Certificate assessed by your organisation, you may not need to do anything yet.

Find out more about the new working with children check and when to apply at [screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc)

## Twitter

- New laws come into effect to help keep children safe in our communities. Check [screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc)
- From 1 July 2019, everyone working or volunteering with children, must have a working with children check. Check [screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc)
- Are you working or volunteering with children? Check whether you need the new working with children check. [screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc)
- Everyone working or volunteering with children, must, by law, have a valid check from 1 July 2019. Check [screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc)
- Even if you have a current child-related clearance, it's time to check you can volunteer or work with children. Check [screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc)
- Working with kids? You can use your National Police Certificate until 1 July 2020. Then you need a working with children check. Find out more: [screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc)
- If you have a child-related employment check, you can use it until it expires. Then you need a working with children check. Find out more: [screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc)
- If you're volunteering or working with kids, new working with children checks apply, by law, from 1 July 2019. Find out how to get the check and when to apply at [screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc)

## Web graphics

*If you're adding these graphics to your website, please make sure you include a hyperlink to [screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc)*



 **New working with children checks are law from 1 July 2019.**

Find out if you need a check and when to apply.

[screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc)

 Government of South Australia  
Department of Human Services





**New working with children checks are law from 1 July 2019.**

Find out if you need a check and when to apply.

[screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc)

 Government of South Australia  
Department of Human Services

# Posters

The first poster on this page is also available in English, Vietnamese, Modern Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Persian, Arabic, Greek and Italian.

If you would like to tailor a poster for your audience with a specific image, please contact the DHS Screening Unit for help.

**Check if working with children ticks all your boxes.**

From 1 July 2019, employees and volunteers who work with children must, by law, have a valid child-related check. The new working with children check replaces all other child-related employment screening checks.

If you work or volunteer with children, you have every reason to check that you've got it a big tick.

- If you are working or volunteering with children, you will need a valid child-related check, such as the new working with children check, from 1 July 2019.
- If you have a current CHS/CCO child-related employment clearance, it will be valid until 31 June 2019. Then you must have a working with children check.
- If you have a National Police Certificate assessed by your organisation, you can keep using until 31 June 2019. Then you must have a new working with children check.
- You can apply for your own working with children check.
- Your check is valid for five years.
- Change jobs and the check goes with you.
- The new check is free for volunteers.

From 1 July 2019, this is the only way to have a check for working with children.

Find out if you need the new working with children check and when to apply at [screening.sa.gov.au/wcwc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wcwc)

**Get your party planning right with this new check.**

From 1 July 2019, if you're a volunteer or employee you must, by law, have a valid child-related check. It's about helping to create a safer environment for them.

If you have a current CHS/CCO child-related employment clearance, you can use it until 31 June 2019. A current CHS/CCO child-related employment clearance will remain valid until 31 June. Then you must have a new working with children check.

Find out if you need the new working with children check and when to apply at [screening.sa.gov.au/wcwc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wcwc)

**Check how working with children could be a blessing.**

From 1 July 2019, if you're a volunteer or employee you must, by law, have a valid child-related check. It's about helping to create a safer environment for them.

If you have a National Police Certificate assessed by your organisation, you can use it until 31 June 2019. A current CHS/CCO child-related employment clearance will remain valid until 31 June. Then you must have a new working with children check.

Find out if you need the new working with children check and when to apply at [screening.sa.gov.au/wcwc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wcwc)

**Check this out and avoid being late for class.**

If you're a teacher, you'll need to get your working with children check. It's about helping to create a safer environment for them.

If you have a National Police Certificate assessed by your organisation, you can use it until 31 June 2019. A current CHS/CCO child-related employment clearance will remain valid until 31 June. Then you must have a new working with children check.

Find out if you need the new working with children check and when to apply at [screening.sa.gov.au/wcwc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wcwc)

**It's time to check you can volunteer or work with children.**

Remember, children are really little adults. It's about helping to create a safer environment for them.

From 1 July 2019, if you're a volunteer or employee you must, by law, have a valid child-related check. It's about helping to create a safer environment for them.

If you have a National Police Certificate assessed by your organisation, you can use it until 31 June 2019. A current CHS/CCO child-related employment clearance will remain valid until 31 June. Then you must have a new working with children check.

Find out if you need the new working with children check and when to apply at [screening.sa.gov.au/wcwc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wcwc)

**Make sure you have this check in place.**

If you're a volunteer or employee you must, by law, have a valid child-related check. It's about helping to create a safer environment for them.

From 1 July 2019, if you're a volunteer or employee you must, by law, have a valid child-related check. It's about helping to create a safer environment for them.

If you have a National Police Certificate assessed by your organisation, you can use it until 31 June 2019. A current CHS/CCO child-related employment clearance will remain valid until 31 June. Then you must have a new working with children check.

Find out if you need the new working with children check and when to apply at [screening.sa.gov.au/wcwc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wcwc)

**Know the healthiest thing you can do before working with children? Get checked.**

From 1 July 2019, health services workers and volunteers who work with children must, by law, have a valid child-related check. It's about helping to create a safer environment for them.

If you have a National Police Certificate assessed by your organisation, you can use it until 31 June 2019. A current CHS/CCO child-related employment clearance will remain valid until 31 June. Then you must have a new working with children check before your current professional registration expires.

Find out if you need the new working with children check and when to apply at [screening.sa.gov.au/wcwc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wcwc)

**Even if you've had a police check, it's time to check you can work with children.**

Remember, children are really little adults. It's about helping to create a safer environment for them.

From 1 July 2019, if you're a volunteer or employee you must, by law, have a valid child-related check. It's about helping to create a safer environment for them.

If you have a National Police Certificate assessed by your organisation, you can use it until 31 June 2019. A current CHS/CCO child-related employment clearance will remain valid until 31 June. Then you must have a new working with children check.

Find out if you need the new working with children check and when to apply at [screening.sa.gov.au/wcwc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wcwc)

**Even if you have a child-related employment clearance, it's time to check you can volunteer or work with children.**

Remember, children are really little adults. It's about helping to create a safer environment for them.

From 1 July 2019, if you're a volunteer or employee you must, by law, have a valid child-related check. It's about helping to create a safer environment for them.

If you have a current CHS/CCO child-related employment clearance, you can use it until 31 June 2019. A current CHS/CCO child-related employment clearance will remain valid until 31 June. Then you must have a new working with children check.

Find out if you need the new working with children check and when to apply at [screening.sa.gov.au/wcwc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wcwc)

**It's time to check you can volunteer or work with children.**

If you're a volunteer or employee you must, by law, have a valid child-related check. It's about helping to create a safer environment for them.

From 1 July 2019, if you're a volunteer or employee you must, by law, have a valid child-related check. It's about helping to create a safer environment for them.

If you have a National Police Certificate assessed by your organisation, you can use it until 31 June 2019. A current CHS/CCO child-related employment clearance will remain valid until 31 June. Then you must have a new working with children check.

Find out if you need the new working with children check and when to apply at [screening.sa.gov.au/wcwc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wcwc)

**There's a new drive to check before working with children.**

If you're a volunteer or employee you must, by law, have a valid child-related check. It's about helping to create a safer environment for them.

From 1 July 2019, if you're a volunteer or employee you must, by law, have a valid child-related check. It's about helping to create a safer environment for them.

If you have a National Police Certificate assessed by your organisation, you can use it until 31 June 2019. A current CHS/CCO child-related employment clearance will remain valid until 31 June. Then you must have a new working with children check.

Find out if you need the new working with children check and when to apply at [screening.sa.gov.au/wcwc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wcwc)

# Infographic

You can print this infographic as A3 or A4 poster, or share it digitally across your communication channels.

## 📅 New working with children checks



**From 1 July 2019, people who work or volunteer with children need a working with children check**



Children's residential or protection services



Religious organisations



Child minding services



Clubs and associations



Education and training



Party entertainers



Health and allied services



Emergency services



Transport services



Coaching and tuition

### What sort of check do you have?



**I have a current DHS/DCSI child-related employment screening**

You can keep using it until it expires; then you must get a working with children check



**I have a current National Police Certificate assessed by my organisation**

Under the new law, you can use it until 1 July 2020; then you must get a working with children check



**I have a current professional registration**

Teachers, health service, and transport service workers who work with children must get a working with children check before they renew their current professional registration



**I don't have a current check**

**Under the new law, you can't work or volunteer with children unless you have a valid check. You can either:**

- 1 Talk to your organisation to get a DHS child-related employment screening before 1 July 2019
- 2 Wait until 1 July 2019 to apply directly for a working with children check

### What's the difference?

**DHS child-related employment screening**  
(Before 1 July 2019)




Valid for 3 years      Organisation starts the application

**Working with children check**  
(After 1 July 2019)




Valid for 5 years      Do your own application

**National Police Certificate**  
(After 1 July 2020)



Not valid for working or volunteering with children

### The law



**Screening Unit**

From 1 July 2019, the Department of Human Services Screening Unit is the **only** service that can conduct working with children checks in South Australia



**From 1 July 2019, it is illegal to**

- Work or volunteer with children without a valid working with children check
- Employ a person or volunteer who doesn't have a working with children check, or is prohibited from working with children

### Get ready



Don't leave it to the last minute – allow at least six weeks to process your application

If you are renewing a current DHS screening, you can submit a new application up to six months before your current one expires



Talk to your employer about getting a DHS child-related employment screening before 1 July 2019, or you can apply for a working with children check directly from 1 July 2019

**Go to: [www.screening.sa.gov.au](http://www.screening.sa.gov.au)**



Government of South Australia  
Department of Human Services

# PowerPoint presentation slides

You can use these slides as a standalone presentation or incorporate them into your own, broader presentation.



## New laws in South Australia

Stronger, more effective, and transparent screening laws for people working or volunteering with children have been introduced in South Australia.



## Why the change?

The working with children check is being introduced to help keep children safe in our communities.

The change is part of the Government of South Australia's response to recommendations in the *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse* and the South Australian Child Protection Systems Royal Commission (also known as the Nyland Report).



## When is it happening?

The new laws mean that, from 1 July 2019, everyone working or volunteering with children must have a valid screening check, such as a new working with children check.



## Benefits

- People can apply online for their own working with children check to ensure job-readiness. Previously, only organisations could start applications.
- A working with children check is valid for five years instead of the current three years.
- A working with children check is portable across jobs, positions and organisations, anywhere in South Australia.
- If a working with children check is only for volunteer work, it will be free, just like the other types of screening checks for volunteers.



## Transition

- Current, valid child-related employment screening checks done by DHS/DCSI will be recognised as a WWCC until they expire.
- There will be a 12 month transition period for most people affected by the new laws – such as those people with a National Police Certificate assessed by an organisation – to allow them to enter the new WWCC scheme smoothly.
- For most people, this means they don't need to do anything to be ready for the new law starting on 1 July 2019.



## Action - what you need to do

- Do you work or volunteer with children? From 1 July 2019 you must have a WWCC.
- Check if you have a current DHS/DCSI child-related employment screening and when it expires, or if you have a National Police Certificate assessed by your organisation. Speak to your organisation and ask them to check for you if you're not sure.
- Go to [screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc) and follow the steps to check whether you need a working with children check.

