

# Working with Children Check bulletin

## Football clubs and Working with Children obligations

The Working with Children (WWC) Screening Unit is aware of some confusion across the football community about how recent changes to the [Working with Children \(Screening\) Act 2004](#) (the Act) impacts clubs.

The following information is provided to help clubs understand and meet their obligations under the Act.

- All clubs, staff and **volunteers** have a legal obligation to comply with the Act.
- Complying with the Act does not mean that all staff and/or volunteers within the club must apply for a WWC Check.
- Only people who are in **child-related work** and who are not covered by an applicable **exemption** are eligible to apply for a WWC Check.
- Under category 12, **parents** volunteering at the club are ineligible to apply for a WWC Check if their child is involved in the club, as they are covered by the parent volunteer exemption. This has not changed. See [Factsheet CRW03: Exemptions, The parent volunteer exemption](#) for more information.
- Volunteers under the age of 18 are covered by the child volunteer exemption and are also ineligible to apply for a WWC Check. This has not changed. See [Factsheet ORG03: Working with Children Check, Sport and recreation sector](#) for more information on determining who is a volunteer.
- The WWC Screening Unit is not obliged to process applications received from people not in child-related work or who are ineligible to apply. These applications may be withdrawn, with no refund issued.
- People with a current Interim Negative Notice or Negative Notice cannot engage in child-related work and are not able to access the child volunteer or parent volunteer exemptions. See [Factsheet CRW04: Exemptions, Narrowing of access](#) for more information.
- There is no legal obligation for clubs to check if volunteers have an Interim Negative Notice or Negative Notice.

- However, if a club becomes aware that a child volunteer or parent volunteer has a current **Interim Negative Notice** or **Negative Notice**, steps must be taken immediately to ensure the person does not continue volunteering with children. Failure to act on this knowledge is an offence, and the club and the parent or child volunteer can be prosecuted.
- To manage this risk, we recommend clubs update their practices and policies to include a process for child volunteers and parent volunteers to acknowledge they understand the new laws and confirm their eligibility to access the child volunteer or parent volunteer exemption. See [Template ORG04: WWC Check, volunteer declaration](#) for an example.

Please contact [WWCCommunityengagement@communities.wa.gov.au](mailto:WWCCommunityengagement@communities.wa.gov.au) if you have any further queries.

Definitions of **bold** terms can be found in the Working with Children Check glossary at [www.workingwithchildren.wa.gov.au](http://www.workingwithchildren.wa.gov.au)