

WHO NEEDS A WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK?

Many of you will be aware that some people in our sport are required to have a Working with Children Check (WWCC). However, there are some important changes being made to the *Working With Children Act (Vic) 2005*, which have come into effect from **1 August 2017**.

We thought it was the right time to not only explain these changes, but remind everyone just who needs to have a WWCC.

Under the previous legislation anyone 18 years or over who is engaged in *child related work* needs a WWCC unless they are *exempt*. So what does this mean in practice?

WHAT IS CHILD RELATED WORK?

It doesn't matter whether you are a paid employee, a contractor or simply a volunteer, if you do any activity in swimming where you have **direct contact** with a person under 18 as **a usual part of your involvement** you need a WWCC.

WHAT IS DIRECT CONTACT?

Before 1 August 2017 this simply meant face to face or physical contact with children that is not directly supervised by someone else.

However now, **after 1 August 2017**, it includes contact with children, whether directly supervised or not, that is;

- physical;
- by phone or other oral communication;
- by post or other written communication (e.g. newsletters);
- by email or other electronic communication (e.g. social media)

It is likely that a lot more people at your club will now need a WWCC.

PERSONS OF AUTHORITY (PPA's)

In addition under the *Swimming Australia Safe Sport Framework* all Persons of Authority **must have a WWCC**.

A Person in a Position of Authority includes everyone who holds a **position of authority** in our sport, whether paid or unpaid, and includes, but is not limited to all Swimming Australia, State, District & Club:

- Staff
- Administrators
- Committee Members
- Coaches
- Technical Officials
- Team Managers
- Overnight Supervisors at camps/clinics/functions and
- Volunteers

To avoid doubt, a Person of Authority *also includes Children or Young People* who may hold a position of authority in our Sport over other Children or Young People (e.g. Club Captains).

ARE PARENTS EXEMPT?

Only if they are volunteering in an activity in which their child normally participates or have a close family relationship with **each child** with whom they have direct contact.

Example: Sarah has volunteered to be a timekeeper at her son's swimming club meet (she is not an accredited Technical Official). Although she will be timekeeping races other than just her son's, Sarah is exempt from the WWCC as her son's event is part of the larger meet.

Whilst this is correct under the legislation, SV encourages any parent volunteer who has direct contact with children as part of their voluntary involvement in swimming to obtain a WWCC so you can meet the requirements of the Safe Sport Framework. This helps to maximise the protection we offer to children in our sport and is a step towards your club's requirements under the Victorian Child Safety Standards which came into effect from 1 January 2017.

WHO ELSE IS EXEMPT?

- Anyone under 18 unless they are supervising a child under 15 in employment
- Teachers with a current Victorian Institute of Teaching registration
- Current Victorian or Federal Police officers
- Interstate visitors (who are doing child related work in Victoria up to a maximum of 30 days in the same calendar year).
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HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

A volunteer WWCC is free. Current pricing for paid workers can be found on the website below.

www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/applications/fees/

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:
WORKINGWITHCHILDREN.VIC.GOV.AU**