



Working With Children Checks

Northern Territory

Legislation

What are the screening requirements for sporting organisations?

Since 1 July 2011, it is mandatory for people who have contact or potential contact with children in [certain specified areas of employment](#) to hold a Working with Children Clearance Notice.

The screening process has been established under the Northern Territory's *Care and Protection of Children Act* and is conducted by SAFE NT, a unit of the Northern Territory Police.

What does the screening assess?

The Working with Children Clearance screening is a criminal and employment record check that ensures there is nothing in the candidate's history which may constitute a serious risk of harm to children. It involves three elements.

Employment History

Other material

Some candidates who apply for a Working with Children Clearance will have a criminal history. However, this does not automatically mean they will be disqualified from obtaining a Clearance. **Who must hold a Clearance Notice?**

Any person over the age of 15 years already working in, or who wants to work or volunteer in, "child-related" work must hold a Clearance Notice. Any person whose employer or volunteer organisation requires them to work with children as part of their employment or volunteering role must hold a Clearance Notice.

Who is exempt?

There are a [few limited circumstances](#) where a person may be exempt from having to apply for a Clearance Notice, such as where the person provides babysitting or child minding in a private capacity to family or friends.

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Are there penalties for not having a Working with Children Clearance Notice?

Yes. It is the responsibility of the person who wants to work or volunteer with children to apply for the Clearance Notice and ensure that it remains valid. Penalties and fines can be located on the Safe NT site.

Action

How can I get a Working with Children Clearance?

SAFE NT is responsible for coordinating the screening process. Application forms and identification requirements are available from the [Working with Children website](#), Northern Territory Police Stations and Territory Business Centres.

What happens if someone does not pass the screening?

SAFE NT will advise the person that they will not have a Clearance Notice issued and will not be able to work in child-related employment.

If they do not agree with the decision, they can ask for it to be reviewed in the Local Court of the Northern Territory.

How much will it cost?

The cost of a Working with Children Clearance (including the Ochre Card) is detailed on the Safe NT site. **How long is the Working with Children Clearance valid for?**

A Working with Children Clearance is valid for two years from the date of issue (unless revoked). If a person wishes to continue to work or volunteer with children after this time they will need to apply again.

What if I have a volunteer card and then start paid employment?

If a person who holds an Ochre Card marked with a 'V' for Volunteer enters paid child-related employment, their card remains valid until expiry.

If that person continues in child-related employment, they must renew their Working with Children Clearance, pay the necessary fee and will then be issued with an Ochre Card marked with an 'E' for Employment.

Resources

Where can I get further information or resources?

- [Northern Territory Government – Working with Children](#)