



# WHO REQUIRES A WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK AT YOUR CLUB?

## General Information

Child Protection is about keeping children safe from abuse and protecting them from people who are unsuitable to work with children.

The Working with Children Check (**WWCC**) provides a mandatory minimum standard for assessing the suitability of people working with children and young people. The check aims to screen for people who may pose a risk to the safety of children and young people in either paid or volunteer work.

It applies to people who have **regular direct contact** with children where that contact is **not directly supervised**.

The WWCC is managed by the Department of Justice. WWCC Cards are valid for five years (unless revoked because of a relevant change in the holder's circumstances or voluntarily surrendered by the holder).

## Guidelines

AFL Victoria has developed a guideline for Clubs, Leagues and Associations to follow to ensure the sport is doing everything possible to prevent child related offences.

Under the Act, a person involved in football is considered to be engaging in child related work and must apply for the WWCC if they:

- Work or volunteer in a role that brings them into contact with children under 18; and
- Volunteer or do this work on a regular basis; and
- Have direct contact with children under 18 which is not directly supervised; and

It is against the Law for a person who is required to but has not obtained a WWCC to engage in child-related work, including volunteering.

It is also against the Law to knowingly employ a person who has not obtained a WWCC in child-related work if they are required to have one, including volunteering.

## Exemptions

AFL Victoria and the WRFL endorse the following exemptions from the legislation (subject to appropriate proof being sighted):

- Persons aged under 18;
- Sworn Members of Victoria Police (who are not suspended from duty);
- Teachers registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching; (clubs are required to sight the VIT registration)

Under the legislation, parents do not have to apply for a WWCC if their child is involved in the relevant activity. However, AFL Victoria and the WRFL does not endorse this exemption and it expressly requires that all parents that meet the criteria set out above apply for and obtain a WWCC. AFL Victoria is one of a number of sports that have taken this view in order to maximise the protection of children involved in football.

## Clubs

The WRFL expects that Clubs with junior teams will, as a minimum requirement, have the following people obtain a WWCC:

- All Executive Committee member's i.e. President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, etc.
- Child Safety Officer
- Coach
- Team Manager
- Trainer
- Runner
- Assistance Coach
- Any adult attending an overnight trip with a junior team
- Other members of the junior club who are involved in regular contact with children that are not directly supervised by a person who has completed a WWCC.

In the case where junior players are playing in a senior team, the minimum requirements for Clubs in this instance will be;

- Coach of the team
- Team Manager of the team
- Trainer of the team

## Applying for A WWCC

Visit <http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/> to apply for your VOLUNTEER Working With Children Check. VOLUNTEER WWCC are **FREE**.

Please ensure that you list your employer on the application form (e.g. Altona Juniors Football Club).

You must complete an online application form before you lodge your application. You will need to finalise your application at a participating Victorian Australian Post outlet and once completed and approved your WWCC card will be posted out in the mail.