

know risk

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Working with children check – Tasmania

Criminal record check

The Commissioner for Children Tasmania released a consultation paper in 2005 discussing proposals to introduce policies and procedures for Tasmanian organisations to screen individuals who seek to work with children in a voluntary or paid capacity. However, at present there are no legal requirements for people working with children to undergo a police check. Criminal history record checks can be obtained through the Tasmanian Police Department.

Mandatory reporting

The following people are legally required to report reasonable suspicions of abuse:

- Medical practitioners, dentists, psychologists and nurses
- Teachers, school principals, kindergarten teachers, and child care workers
- Law enforcement officers and probation officers
- Child welfare officers
- Persons concerned in the management of a child care service
- A person who provides child care, or a child care service, for fee or reward
- People employed by, or volunteering in, government agencies or organisations funded by the Crown that provide health, welfare, education, residential services or care wholly or partly for children.

Reports should be made to:

Department of Health and Human Services
Children and Families Division
Level 4, 34 Davey, Street
Hobart Tas, 7000
Phone Number: 1300 737 639
1800 001 219
URL: www.dhhs.tas.gov.au

Australia

1300 650 540
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Sources

Department of Health & Human Services – www.thelaw.tas.gov.au Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1997
Mandatory Reporting - “Summary of Grounds & Contacts for Notification of Abuse” Herbert Greer & Rundle (Lawyers), Choose with Care (Childwise), National Child Protection Clearinghouse <http://www.aifs.gov.au/nch/index.html> www.childcomm.tas.gov.au

Summary

While the Working with Children Check must be complied with, it cannot solely be relied upon to determine the suitability of a worker or volunteer. The check is only ONE of the strategies that organisations must establish to ensure that people who work with children are suitable to do so. Organisations must ensure that other measures are in place to assess a person’s suitability to work with children, including interviews, thorough reference checks, a code of conduct, vigilant supervision and regular training.

This material is for information purposes only. It is not intended to give specific legal or risk management advice nor are any suggestions, checklists or action plans intended to include or address all possible risk management exposures or solutions.

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