

# Relevant History Assessments: Screening Obligations Update

September 2018

## [Relevant history assessments \(screenings, police checks\) for people working with children in a prescribed position.](#)

The *Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016* has passed through Parliament.

**However, until the new legislation has supporting regulations it will not commence. There has been no legislative change to an organisation's screening obligations under the *Children's Protection Act 1993*.**

Currently in South Australia a relevant history assessment may still be conducted by an organisation using either a National Police Certificate, or a screening conducted through the DHS Screening Unit. Some organisations may already require a DHS Screening rather than a National Police Certificate. That is a policy decision of the organisation, it is not a requirement of the current state legislation.

## [Summary of Legislative changes](#)

The new *Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016* was passed by Parliament in November 2016 but has not commenced. The regulations that support this Act have been through public consultation and are presently being redrafted.

This Act mandates one central screening unit in SA for assessing a person's relevant history.

Once this is in place all people working with children in prescribed positions (unless an exemption applies) will require a Working with Children Check (DHS Screening); National Police Certificates will no longer be able to be used by organisations for a relevant history assessment of their staff and volunteers.

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When the Act commences the Working with Children Check (WWCC) will:

- be valid for 5 years
- have real time monitoring
- an organisation will not be able to engage a person who has been identified as prohibited to work with children in a prescribed position
- a person who has been assessed as a prohibited person will not be permitted to work with children
- individuals will be responsible for completing their application to obtain their own WWCC Unique identifier number and it will be transferable across organisations
- organisations will be required to verify that a person, who presents their Working with Children unique number, is who they say they are and will notify the DHS Screening Unit when this person is engaged in a prescribed position

The *Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016* will significantly change the manner in which screening for persons undertaking child-related work is managed and performed.

The SA Government has announced fees for volunteer screening checks are being abolished. This initiative will commence 1 November 2018.

Additionally, sections of the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017* that impact the sport and recreation industry will commence 22 October 2018. An Industry Information Sheet has been produced regarding these changes. It is available on the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing [website](#).

## Child Safe responsibilities within government.

Child Protection is now the responsibility of the **Department of Child Protection** (formerly Families SA). <https://www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/>

Child Safe Environments obligations for organisations, such as lodging a Child Safe compliance statement, still sits within the **Department for Education**. <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/child-protection/child-safe-environments>

Child Protection reform (legislative changes) are being developed through the **Attorney-General's Department**. <https://www.agd.sa.gov.au/>





The Screening Unit sits within the **Department of Human Services** (formerly DCSI) <https://screening.sa.gov.au/>

For further information contact the Senior Project Officer, Sport Culture and Ethics on 1300 714 990

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