

## Frequently Asked Questions



Working with  
Children Check



### I don't have any contact or rarely have contact with children in my role as an Official. Do I still need a Working with Children Check?

Yes. All Victorian CAMS Officials will need a check according to the legislation changes.

### Was this a CAMS decision?

No. These changes are required following amendments to the Working with Children Act 2005 (the Act) by the Victorian State Government. These amendments are being made following a Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Key changes include expanding the definition of 'direct contact' in the Act. The definition of direct contact now includes oral, written or electronic communication as well as face-to-face and physical contact. Previously, the term 'direct contact' only referred to physical contact or face-to-face oral communication with a child. In order to reflect the growing use of technology, which is presenting more opportunities for grooming children, the new definition of 'direct contact' has been expanded to include the following types of contact:

- Face to face contact
- Contact by post or other written communication
- Contact by telephone or other oral communication
- Contact by email or other electronic communication

References to 'Supervision' have also been removed from the Act. This means that even if a person's contact with children as part of their child-related work is supervised by another person, they will still need to apply for a Working with Children Check.

Previously, the element of supervision was used to determine whether a person required a Check. If a person's contact with children was directly supervised by another person, then they were not required to hold a check. Now, a Check is required whether contact with the children is supervised or not. This amendment responds to the Royal Commission's findings that perpetrators can often groom children in the presence of other people.

Further information can be found here:

[www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/about+the+check/purpose/changes+to+legislation](http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/about+the+check/purpose/changes+to+legislation)

### I hold a check from another state, is it valid in Victoria?

Yes. Interstate visitors can do child-related work in Victoria without a Victorian Check for a period of up to 30 days in the same calendar year for:

- Several events or occasions with a Check from their state or territory, or
- Only one event or occasion without a Check from their state or territory.

### How much does it cost?

For volunteers, it is absolutely FREE.

### How long does a Victorian Working with Children Check last?

5 years.

### How long does it take to get a Check?

The online application takes less than 10 minutes, and verification at a Post Office is required.

## What is the equivalent Check in my home state?

**Victoria** – Victorian Working with Children Check

**New South Wales** – New South Wales Working with Children Check

**Queensland** – Blue Card

**South Australia** – Refer to SA Department for Education and Child Development – Child Safety

**West Australia** – Western Australian Working with Children Check

**Tasmania** – Tasmanian Working with Children Registration

**Northern Territory** – Ochre Card

**ACT** - Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011

[www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/resources/interstate+checks](http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/resources/interstate+checks)

## What do I need to provide to CAMS?

CAMS are required to keep a record of all Working with Children Checks and information can be sent to [workingwithchildren@cams.com.au](mailto:workingwithchildren@cams.com.au) and must include:

- Your full name;
- CAMS licence number;
- Working with Children Check number/reference;
- Working with Children Check expiry date;
- a scanned copy/photograph of the card.

## My Working with Children Check expires a day before my event, is there any leeway?

No. Anyone acting as an official will be required to hold a valid check. When your Working with Children Check expires your licence will be suspended until evidence of a valid check is provided.

## Can I sign up to be an Official on the day if I don't hold a Working with Children Check?

No. Budding officials should take a copy of their valid Working with Children Check if they want to arrive and officiate on the day.

## How do I get a Working with Children Check?

For Victorians, a Working with Children Check can be obtained free of charge from the following link:

[www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/applications/apply+for+a+check/apply+in+victoria](http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/applications/apply+for+a+check/apply+in+victoria)

and hitting the blue 'start application' box at the bottom of the page. You can also apply by visiting your local Australia Post office.

## Do I have to have it by August 1st?

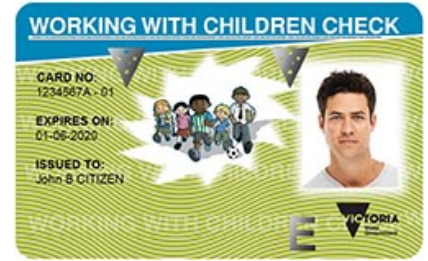
Yes. All Victorian Officials are required to apply for their Working with Children Check by August 1st. Any Officials that have still not provided evidence of their application at this time will have their licence suspended until such evidence is received.

## Can I work while my application is processed?

Most people can work with children while their application is processed. However, by law you must not if you:

- have been charged with, convicted, or found guilty of a sexual, violent or drug offence listed in clause 2 of Schedule 3 of the Act
- have been given a Negative Notice in the past
- intend to supervise a child under the age of 15 in employment under the Child Employment Act 2003
- intend to work in a service regulated by the Children's Services Act 1996 or in an education and care service under the Education and Care National Services Law (Victoria) Act 2010
- are subject to orders or reporting obligations under the:
  - Sex Offenders Registration Act 2004
  - Serious Sex Offenders Monitoring Act 2005
  - Serious Sex Offenders (Detention and Supervision) Act 2009.

[www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/resources/faqs](http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/resources/faqs)



## I'm a brand new Victorian Official, what do I need to do?

To become a CAMS Official in Victoria, you need to provide details of your completed Working With Children application. This is explained on the form on our website [www.cams.com.au/get-involved/officials/officials-forms/licence-forms](http://www.cams.com.au/get-involved/officials/officials-forms/licence-forms)

## Do these changes apply to 'event' officials (ie. People on the gate, taking tickets, working in canteen)?

Given 'event' officials do not fall within the CAMS Officials Licencing Structure, please refer to the relevant Club or Event Organiser. All CAMS licenced Officials must hold a check (or have applied for one) by August 1 to continue officiating in CAMS officiating roles.

## I'm a competitor, do I require a check?

No. The legislation is only relevant to those performing 'child-related work'.

## Who is exempt from holding a Working with Children Check?

There are a number of exemptions listed in the following link:  
[www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/about+the+check/who+needs+a+check/exemptions](http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/about+the+check/who+needs+a+check/exemptions)

## I obtained a Police Check, is this the same thing?

No.  
[www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/about+the+check/how+is+a+police+check+different](http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/about+the+check/how+is+a+police+check+different)

## Do I always need to carry my Working with Children Check with me?

No. When you apply for and pass your check, send the details to [workingwithchildren@cams.com.au](mailto:workingwithchildren@cams.com.au) and we will make record of your check. **However, if you are a signing up for the first time as an Official on the day of the event**, you will need to produce your card before you can officiate.