



Fact sheet

The Working with Children Check and Police Checks

This fact sheet explains the differences between the Working with Children Check (WWCC) done by Blue Card Services and a Police Check.

The difference between the WWCC and a Police Check

The WWCC is an ongoing assessment of a person’s eligibility to work or volunteer with children. It involves checking a person’s national criminal history and other disciplinary and police information.

A Police Check is only current on the day of issue and is a list of offences from a person’s criminal history which can be disclosed. It does not involve an assessment by a government agency.

Blue Card Services administer the WWCC in Queensland. And is required before a blue card can be issued.

The two checks explained

Question	Working with Children Check (WWCC)	Police Check
What does it check?	<p>The WWCC involves a person’s national criminal history (including spent convictions, pending and non-conviction charges), and other disciplinary and police information. This information is collected from sources within Australia and also includes an assessment of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child protection prohibition orders (whether a person is a respondent or subject to an application) or disqualification orders. • Whether a person is subject to reporting obligations under the <i>Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004</i> or the <i>Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003</i>. 	<p>This depends on the type of history obtained.</p> <p>A combination of histories will be required to obtain a picture of a person’s charges and convictions.</p> <p>This information is limited to Queensland charges and will not disclose spent convictions, interstate history, pending or non-conviction charges or other information taken into account by the working with children check.</p>

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The Working with Children Check and Police Checks

The two checks explained (cont.)

Question	Working with Children Check (WWCC)	Police Check
<p>What does it check? (cont.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disciplinary information held by certain professional organisations including teachers, child care providers and foster carers, and information that the Police Commissioner may provide in relation to police investigations into allegations of serious child-related sexual offences, even if no charges were laid. • Domestic violence information. • Other information about the person that is relevant to deciding whether it would be in the best interests of children to issue a blue card. • Information about a person’s criminal record may also be obtained from authorised bodies in Queensland and similar interstate authorities such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queensland Police Service • the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions • the Department of Corrective Services • the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. • Queensland Courts Services. 	<p><u>For example:</u></p> <p>A Criminal History (Queensland only) contains only disclosable convictions imposed in Queensland.</p> <p>A National Police Certificate contains only Australian disclosable convictions.</p> <p>A Person History contains Queensland charges only. While this includes Queensland cautions, community conferences and youth justice agreements under the Juvenile Justice Act 1992, it does not contain charges that have been referred by police outside of the Queensland WWCC.</p> <p>Note: There is no assessment or investigation made by a government agency for a Police Check.</p>
<p>How far back does the check go?</p>	<p>The WWCC will consider all relevant offences back to when the applicant was 10 years of age.</p>	<p>A Police check only goes back 10 years from the date of submission.</p> <p>Note: Some offences cannot be disclosed, depending on when they were committed.</p>
<p>Does it allow someone to work or volunteer with children in Queensland?</p>	<p>Yes. If the WWCC occurs and the applicant is issued a blue card, they can work in any regulated child-related employment or conduct any regulated child-related business for three years, unless the card is suspended or cancelled prior.</p> <p>Note: Their police information continues to be monitored, daily. If a person commits an offence which disqualifies them from holding a blue card, Blue Card Services will contact all organisations the person works or volunteers at to let them know of the disqualification.</p>	<p>No. The police check does not provide any reassurance for an applicant to work or volunteer with children.</p> <p>A blue card is required before a person can work or volunteer with children.</p>



The Working with Children Check and Police Checks

The two checks explained (cont.)

Question	Working with Children Check (WWCC)	Police Check
Are criminal records monitored on an ongoing basis?	Yes. Ongoing monitoring of all card holders and applicants is conducted daily. This enables Blue Card Services to take immediate action to protect children and young people if the person is charged with a concerning offence.	No. A police check is a point in time check. A new police check will be required to show any new offences.
How long is it valid?	A blue card is valid for three years unless suspended or cancelled.	A Police Check is only current at the time of issue and is a list of offences from a person's criminal history which can be disclosed (within the last 10 years).
What happens when someone changes employers – is a new check required?	<p>Once a blue card is issued, it can be used across all categories of regulated employment and regulated business until it expires. For example, a person can use their blue card to be a foster carer, operate a licensed childcare service and volunteer as a coach of a child's sporting team.</p> <p>Organisations are required to link an existing blue or exemption card holder or applicant in regulated employment. By doing so, Blue Card Services can take appropriate action if a person's card status changes.</p> <p>This is done by using the online Organisation Portal or submitting a <i>Link a person to your organisation</i> form to Blue Card Services.</p>	<p>Employers and organisations have their own policies around requiring police checks.</p> <p>The person may need a new police check when they start a new job.</p>

Need help?

Phone us on 1800 113 611 or 07 3211 6999. Or visit our website at www.qld.gov.au/bluecard. If you need an interpreter, contact Language Loop on 1800 512 451.