



Volunteering with Children in Surf Life Saving & Swimming Clubs

FACTSHEET



TASMANIA

Overview

The *Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013* aims to protect children from harm by providing the highest standard of compulsory background checking for anyone involved in child-related work or volunteering in Tasmania. It does not matter whether the role is paid or unpaid, supervised or unsupervised.

Working with Children Registration applies to people within all sectors including club and association activity. Sport and recreation plays a pivotal role in children's development. It is important that safe environments are provided for all children who participate in this sector.

Not only is it up to the individual to make sure they are registered to work with children but employers and volunteer organisations have a number of responsibilities and obligations under the Act including the responsibility to ensure that their staff and volunteers have a valid registration to work with children.

Safer environments for children and minimising risk

Obtaining registration to work or volunteer with children plays a vital role in protecting children but it is only one of the practices that responsible organisations need to ensure to promote safer environments for children. Organisations should have in place policies that promote safer and supportive environments for children. Many employers and volunteer organisations promote good risk management policies that include practices that safeguard children, codes of conduct and supervision and training. For organisations that require further assistance on creating safe environments for children, template policies can be found at the Play by the Rules website www.playbytherules.net.au.

Who needs a Working with Children Registration?

The Act prescribes that anyone who is involved in a 'regulated activity' must hold a valid Working with Children Registration, Go to www.justice.tas.gov.au/working_with_children for more information.

Briefly outlined below are examples as to registration requirements in the sector for club and association activity.

Who must apply for a Working with Children Registration?

Club and association activity means a cultural, recreational, sporting or community activity or service provided primarily for children by a club, association, movement, society or other similar body.

Examples of members who should apply include;

- Member Protection Information Officers (MPIOs)**
- Team Managers, Coaches and Training Officers**
- Members of the Board of Management, Executive Committees if in direct contact with children**
- Chaperones, Leaders, Junior Activities Coordinators and Age Managers**
- Patrol Captains, Officials and Club Officials**
- Other volunteers if in direct contact with children, e.g. Canteen Volunteers**

Examples of people who should NOT apply under this activity:

Children under 16 years of age

Administrative staff of a club if their usual duties of work do not bring them into contact with a child

Lifeguards providing general lifesaving services at a beach and pool for adults and children

A person that is a registered teacher and is coaching as part of their teaching duties

Some individuals who engage in a regulated activity, either as an employee or volunteer, may not need to apply for a Working with Children Registration. See 'Fact sheet: Exemptions from Registration' at the Working with Children Registration website: www.justice.tas.gov.au/working_with_children

Working with Children Registration Process

Registration to Work with Children is being phased into all child related activities over a three year period commencing from 1 July 2014. Any person undertaking a regulated activity for a club or association or similar body providing services primarily to children must have their registration in place by 1 April 2015.

Applications opened on 1 October 2014.

The application form is completed online. Once application has been made, the applicant is required to visit a Service Tasmania shop to present proof of identity and payment. Registered applicants will receive a Working with Children Registration Card by post.

Working with Children Registration is valid for three years.

Working with Children Registration is on Facebook. What a great way to get a reminder that it's time to apply, or that new resources are available. To connect, login or sign up for Facebook and search for Working with Children Registration.

For more information:



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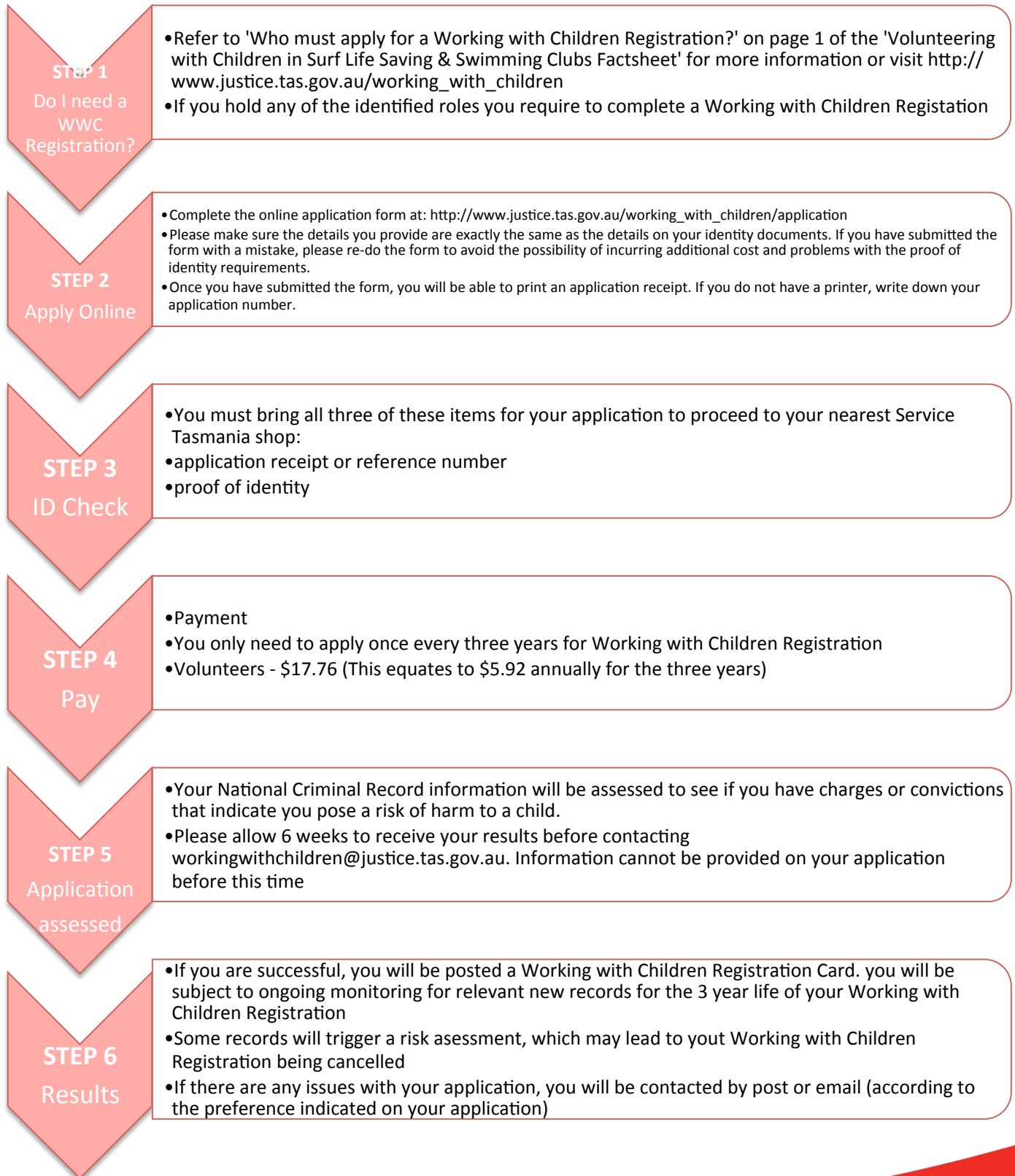
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Working with Children Registration Process



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