



# INFORMATION SHEET: Working with Children Check

## All information extracted from the AFL Victoria guidelines

Child Protection is about keeping children safe from abuse and protecting them from people who are unsuitable to work with children. The Working with Children Check (WWCC) provides a mandatory minimum standard for assessing the suitability of people working with children and young people. The check aims to screen for people who may pose a risk to the safety of children and young people in either paid or volunteer work.

### Guidelines

AFL Victoria has developed a guideline for Clubs, Leagues and Associations to follow to ensure the sport is doing everything possible to prevent child related offences. Under the Act, a person involved in football is considered to be engaging in child related work and must apply for the WWCC if they:

- Work or volunteer in a role that brings them into contact with children under 18; and
- Volunteer or do this work on a regular basis; and
- Have direct contact with children under 18 which is not directly supervised; and
- Do not qualify for one of the exemptions in the legislation (subject to AFL Victoria's policies).

It is **against the Law** for a person who is required to but has not obtained a Working with Children Check to **engage in child-related work, including volunteering**. It is also against the law to **knowingly employ a person who has not obtained a Working with Children Check in child-related work** if they are required to have one, **including volunteering**.

### Exemptions

AFL Victoria endorses the following exemptions from the legislation and it will recognize that Clubs and Associations shall not require the following individuals to apply for the WWCC (subject to appropriate proof being sighted): **Persons aged under 18**; Sworn Members of **Victoria Police** (who are not suspended from duty); **Teachers registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching**; (clubs are required to sight the VIT registration)

Under the legislation, parents do not have to apply for a WWCC if their child is involved in the relevant activity. However, AFL Victoria does not endorse this exemption and it expressly requires that all parents that meet the criteria set out above apply for, and obtain a WWCC.

**AFL Victoria expects that Leagues and Associations will**, as a minimum requirement, have the following people obtain a WWCC:

- League or Association representative team that have players U18 participating
- Coaches;
- Trainers; and/or
- Team Managers
- Members of the League or Association Umpiring Board and/or Umpire Coaches.
- Any adult attending an overnight trip with a junior team
- Other members of the League or Association who are involved in regular contact with children that are not directly supervised by a person who has completed a WWCC;

League and Associations should also **maintain a register, provided by each Club**, of the **people within the Association (see below)** who have been approved under the legislation. It would not be necessary for the League or Association to sight actual check documents. The above requirements, to comply with the WWCC legislation, are in addition to all existing AFL Victoria and affiliated member child safety policies such as Code of Behaviour and Member Protection

AFL Victoria expects that Clubs with junior teams (**All Gippsland League clubs**) will, as a minimum requirement, have the following people obtain a WWCC:

- **All Executive Committee member's** i.e. President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, as well as Canteen Manager / Supervisor, Child Safety Officer
- **Coach of a team**
- **Team Manager of a team**
- **Club Trainer of a team**
- Any adult attending an overnight trip with a junior team
- Other members of the junior club who are involved in regular contact with children that are not directly supervised by a person who has a WWCC

*In the case where junior players are playing in a senior team, the minimum requirements for Clubs in this instance will be: Coach of a team; Team Manager of a team; Club Trainer of a team*

**Please complete and regularly update the official GL WWCC Record Sheet and supply to the League for our records**