

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When do I need to get the Working with Children Check?

The AFL NSW/ACT expects all volunteers who are required to obtain a WWCC clearance do so as soon as possible and by 30 June 2015.

Where can I go to get my identity checked?

Proof of identity must be completed at a NSW Motor Registry, Government Access Centre, or Service NSW office (not your local Council).

Find a location at www.service.nsw.gov.au/service-centre.

I am under 18 years of age. Do I need to get a clearance?

A volunteer or worker who is under the age of 18 years is exempt from the legislation and does not require a Working With Children Check clearance.

Where can I get more information?

If you have any questions if or if you would like further information contact:

NSW Office of the Children's Guardian

Website: kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au

Email: check@kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au

Phone: (02) 9286 7219

The AFL NSW/ACT Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO)

Name: Taleah Neowhouse

Email: Taleah.neowhouse@aflnswact.com.au

Phone: (02) 8333 8014

Note:

Working With Children legislation differs in the ACT.

Please visit the

www.ors.act.gov.au/community/working_with_vulnerable_people_wwvp

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WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

This brochure outlines aspects of the
AFL National Child Protection Policy



DEAR PARTICIPANTS

This brochure outlines aspects of the AFL National Child Protection Policy.

Children should be able to develop and enjoy their sporting experience in a safe environment, protected from the risk of harm or abuse.

Most people who volunteer or work with children do so to help children develop to their full potential. They make a positive contribution to the lives of children in the community and should be recognised and valued for their work.

Unfortunately, not all children are safe. Research suggests that child abuse occurs across all sectors of the community, including areas of sport.

The AFL NSW/ACT is committed to supporting Child Protection legislation obligations and aims to create an environment where children can participate in playing AFL and be safe from any form of abuse. This requires making a firm and open commitment to child protection and adopting procedures and practices that will minimise the risk of a child being abused.

All Clubs, Leagues and Associations must appoint a Child Protection Officer (CPO) (who preferably is independent of the club's committee) and ensure that:

- Working With Children Checks (WWCC) are completed by the appropriate people
- within the club environment, ensure that all WWCC are verified online
- increase the awareness of child abuse
- implement a child safe environment
- educate parents and participants on the AFL National Child Protection Policy
- know what to do if you suspect abuse

These procedures will help foster a safe and positive environment for children and young people to participate in AFL. By adhering to the Child Safe Policy processes outlined in this brochure, you will take a positive step to ensuring your club is safe for all children.

The AFL NSW/ACT thanks you for your cooperation in keeping our children safe.



HOW DO I GET A WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK?

The AFL NSW/ACT requires that all Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Managers, Assistant Managers, Umpire Coordinators, First Aid officials and anyone appointed to comply with the obligations of the Sports Trainers in Community Australian Football Policy and anyone who has direct and ongoing face-to-face contact with children to obtain a Working With Children Check clearance.

Step 1: Complete an online application form

- Go to www.check.kids.nsw.gov.au and complete the online application form. If you do not have internet access, please telephone (02) 9286 7219 for assistance.
- Ensure your details provided are EXACTLY THE SAME as the details on your identity documents.
- Ensure you select the correct category: paid or volunteer.
- Once you have submitted the form, you will receive an application number (APP) by email that looks like this: APP1234567

Step 2: Present Proof of your Identity

- Go to a NSW Motor Registry, Government Access Centre, or Service NSW office. Find a location at www.service.nsw.gov.au/service-centre
- You will need to take along your application number and proof of your identity.
- If you are in paid work, you will also be required to pay an \$80 fee for a five year clearance. Volunteer clearances are free of charge.

PLEASE NOTE: You cannot submit proof of identity on behalf of someone else. You must appear in person with your own documentation.

Receiving your Results

You will receive a Working With Children Check number by email (or post if you do not have an email address).

Please present your WWCC number to your club CPO, along with your full name and date of birth.

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PRACTICAL TIPS FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR A CHILD SAFE CLUB

- avoid being alone with a child
- always meet with a child where others can see you both
- foster an environment of friendship, cooperation, tolerance and good sportsmanship
- ensure that all physical contact with a child is appropriate to the situation or the skill being taught
- never enter the change room without first knocking or loudly announcing that you are entering
- Males should only enter male change rooms. Females should only enter female change rooms.

WHAT DO YOU DO IF?

If you suspect abuse is occurring, or a child tells you that they have been abused, you should:

- reassure the child that something will be done to keep them safe, and listen carefully

You should tell them

- that you believe them
- it is not their fault and they are not responsible for abuse
- that telling you is the right thing to do

You should not:

- promise not to tell anyone
- force the child to give you details of the abuse
- ask leading questions
- dismiss anything a child tells you
- discuss the circumstances of the child with others not directly involved

REPORTING A DISCLOSURE OR SUSPICION

You should, as soon as possible, report the circumstances directly to:

- Child Protection Helpline 132 111; and
- Your club's Child Protection Officer and
- The AFL/NSW/ACT Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO)

Name: Taleah Neowhouse
Email: Taleah.neowhouse@aflnswact.com.au
Phone: (02) 8333 8014

All reports made to the Police and the CPO/MPIO are completely confidential.