



Working with vulnerable people - overview

The Act

The *Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011* (WWVP Act) commenced on 8 November 2012.

The idea of background checking is that the past behaviour of an individual provides an indication of the possible future behaviour of that individual. Examples or patterns of abusive or inappropriate behaviour can sometimes be evident in information available for assessment, which includes an individual's criminal record.

What does this mean for me?

The *WWVP Act* requires people to be registered with the Office of Regulatory Services (ORS), Justice and Community Safety Directorate if engaging in certain activities or services for vulnerable people (children and vulnerable adults). Activities and services that are covered under the *WWVP Act* are called 'Regulated Activities' (see the WWVP fact sheet - '*regulated activities*').

The *WWVP Act* will begin in different years depending on the type of activity or service you work in:

- in the first year, between 8 November 2012 and 7 November 2013, all employees and volunteers who provide regulated activities and services to children will need to be registered.
- all employees and volunteers providing regulated activities and services to vulnerable people are required to be registered between years two and six.
- In year four, there will be a review of the scheme. Only new employees and volunteers who participate in regulated activities covered in years one to three will be able to apply for registration. There will also be renewals for people who were registered in year one.

See the WWVP fact sheet - 'when do I need to register' for further information.

Background Screening

The registration process will include a national criminal history check that will include relevant information from a range of agencies including state and territory police and child protection services.

Once the application is received, a risk assessment will be completed using the approved risk assessment guidelines. Individuals that pose an unacceptable risk may be stopped from working with vulnerable people. (see the *WWVP risk assessments fact sheet*).

Please turn over.



ACT
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Justice and Community Safety



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Is there any cost for registration?

An application fee of \$71 applies to people who work (or want to work) with vulnerable people. Fees are the responsibility of the applicant (however, an employer may choose to pay the fee on behalf of the applicant) and are tax-deductible for the individual. A similar fee is applied by other Australian states and territories operating a registration system for people working with children.

There is no cost to volunteers (unless you are also **employed** in another activity or service that is considered to be a regulated activity).

Where can I find out more information?

For a detailed overview, the WWVP legislation can be found on the ACT Legislation Register:

www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/2011-44/default.asp and via ORS:

Telephone: (02) 6207 3000 **Web:** www.ors.act.gov.au
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