

Child Protection and the NSW Working With Children Check

Information for SLSNSW Clubs

What is the Working With Children Check?

A Working With Children Check (WWCC) involves a national police check and review of findings of misconduct involving children, and the result is either a clearance to work with children for five years, or a bar against working with children. A Check is a prerequisite for anyone in child-related work.

Do Surf Life Saving Members need a Working With Children Check?

All NSW Surf Life Saving (SLS) Club members and employees (over the age of 18 years) require a WWCC from April 2015 if they are undertaking a child-related role. However, there are a number of exemptions, which are explained below.

What roles within Surf Life Saving constitute child-related work?

Some of the roles within SLS that require a WWCC include:

- Member Protection and Information Officers / Grievance Officers
- Junior Activity Chairperson
- Age Manager / Age Manager Assistant
- Water Safety personnel for Nippers / Surf Education programs
- Youth / Rookie / YEP Coordinator / Assistant
- Sport Coaches for under 18 only squads/teams
- TAFS / Program Assistants for under 18 only groups

What are the exemptions for the Working With Children Check?

The exemptions under the WWCC which are most relevant to SLS include:

- Children (under the age of 18)
- Administrative, clerical, maintenance or ancillary work not ordinarily involving contact with children for extended periods
- Very short term work: not more than a total of 5 days in a calendar year
- Volunteering by a parent or close relative with a team, program or other activity in which their child usually participates or is a team member
- Co-workers and supervisors where a child works

What happens if a member does not get a clearance following a WWCC?

Any member whose online verification returns a 'Barred' or 'Interim Barred' result must not work in a child-related role. If this happens the Club has the option of either dismissing them, suspending them from child-related work pending the outcome of an appeal, or transferring them to a non child-related role within the club (although the Club is under no legal obligation to find an alternative position for a barred worker).

Does the member still need to complete a SLSNSW Member Protection Declaration form even they have a Working With Children Check?

Yes, this form declares whether they have other relevant criminal charges, anti-doping violations, and any other matters which could constitute risk to members, employees, volunteers, athletes or reputation.

For more information visit surflifesaving.com.au or kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au



NEW SOUTH WALES

The Working With Children Check Process for SLS Clubs

[Register](#) as an 'employer' with the Office of the Children's Guardian (OCG)

Identify who will need a WWCC using the SLSNSW Guidelines

Complete the [online verification process](#) using the WWCC or Application Number

Enter the WWCC details in to SurfGuard

Appoint or remove a worker depending on the outcome of the WWCC verification

Remove anyone in a child-related role should their 'Cleared' status change

Provide the SurfGuard data to the OCG if an audit of the club is undertaken

Monitor records to ensure WWCCs are renewed after the five year period.