



Department  
of Sport and  
Recreation

# positionstatement

## Working with Children Legislation

The Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) seeks to promote, encourage and support strategies to create safe environments for children's participation in sport and active recreation. DSR complies with the State's working with children legislation (*Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004*). The Working with Children Check (WWCC) is a comprehensive criminal record check undertaken for specified people working with children in Western Australia. DSR recognises the importance of the WWCC as being one element of child protection. The WWCC aims to increase the safety of children in the community by ensuring people who have a criminal history that indicates they may harm children do not actually 'work' with children.

### **Working with Children Checks in the DSR Camps**

The DSR Camps have a procedure to ensure all relevant employees and volunteers are compliant with Working with Children legislation requiring that they:

- obtain a check and provide a copy to the agency before commencing employment with DSR camps; and
- maintain currency of the WWCC to continue employment with the DSR camps in accordance with the Working with Children legislation.

DSR Camps do not provide information about individual staff member's Working with Children status to external organisations, nor do they expect their staff to carry their Working with Children cards at all times. Instead DSR includes in its contracts with external organisations the assurance that all employees have sufficient qualifications and the requisite Police Clearances and Working with Children Checks.

Subcontractors to DSR who are involved in child-related activities are also required to ensure that their employees possess and maintain valid Working with Children Check in compliance with the working with children legislation.

For further information about the Working with Children Checks visit:

<http://www.checkwwc.wa.gov.au/checkwwc>

### **Definitions**

- A child is defined as someone under the age of 18 years.
- Legal responsibility for the protection of children from abuse rests with both the Department for Community Development and the WA Police Service.

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