






Factsheet ORG06


Working with Children Check

Health sector

This factsheet has been designed specifically for the health sector and is intended as a guide only. Examples are not intended to be exhaustive and do not include all circumstances or variations based on the specific role and associated responsibilities. If you require assistance translating or interpreting the information in this factsheet, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450.

Below is a list of **categories** of [child-related work](#) that may apply to the health sector, where a person has a role that involves, or is likely to involve, ‘**contact**’ with a **child** as part of their **usual duties**. The examples provided may also be subject to [exemptions](#).

Categories may include:	Roles may include:
 <p>3. An educational institution for children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> health workers at schools, including nurses and dentists.
 <p>5. An arrangement for the accommodation or care of children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> staff providing ‘out of home’ respite or residential care services staff providing ‘in home’ respite care services for children with disabilities.
 <p>9. A community child health service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> staff and volunteers who have contact with patients at a child community health service non-ward based staff and volunteers who have contact with patients at Perth Children’s Hospital.
 <p>10. A counselling or other support service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> people providing counselling or other support services to children, including by phone or web-based applications people providing counselling and support to children who have illnesses e.g., cancer, diabetes.
 <p>13. A ward of a public or private hospital</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> an all-purpose orderly at a country health service people working and volunteering on wards at Perth Children’s Hospital

Categories may include:	Roles may include:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • staff working and volunteering on adult wards where children are ordinarily patients • students completing their placement (required practical training) at a hospital working on a ward where children are ordinarily patients.
 <p>16. A transport service specifically for children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people specifically transporting children on behalf of a health care facility.

Examples of people who do not engage in child-related work in the health sector and therefore do not require a Working with Children (WWC) Check

Roles may include:	Reason a WWC Check is not required
General practitioners or pediatricians working in private practice only.	There is no applicable category of child-related work.
Hospital staff who access children's confidential data but have no role with children.	Do not have contact with children.
Persons contracted to provide maintenance or deliver goods to hospitals or community child health services.	Contact with children is incidental and not part of the usual duties.

Frequently asked questions

Do our emergency department staff require WWC Checks?

Yes, emergency departments where children are ordinarily patients, are considered to be wards, and therefore fall within category 13. Anyone whose usual duties bring them into contact with children will require a WWC Check unless an exemption applies.

If the placement provider has signed the Application for a WWC Check form for a student on placement, does our hospital or community child health service have any obligations under the legislation?

Yes, by engaging the student on placement in child-related work your health facility is taking on the role of employer and will need to ensure that the individual has a valid WWC Card. This can be checked on our [website](#).

It is also advised your organisation [registers](#) the student as working for them to ensure that you are notified if a **Negative Notice** or **Interim Negative Notice** is issued.

Our hospital uses an agency to fill our nursing positions. Is it their responsibility to ensure that staff have WWC Checks as required?

If the agency is their employer, then yes, they hold the responsibility with respect to WWC Checks. However, there is still an onus on hospitals to ensure that any staff that are engaged in child-related work hold a current and valid WWC Card.

If your organisation becomes aware that an agency-employed nurse has been issued with a Negative Notice or an Interim Negative Notice, your organisation should have procedures in place to ensure that the nurse is removed from child-related work immediately.

What tools can we use to make sure we are complying with the legislation?

[Our Resource ORG01: WWC Check, Compliance toolkit](#) is a handy resource for organisations wanting to ensure they are on track with their compliance with the *Working with Children (Screening) Act 2004*.

What can we do to be a child safe organisation?

The WWC Check is only one strategy to keep children safe. There are many things that organisations can do to make sure they are child-safe and child-friendly. For more information visit the Department of Communities' Child Safe Organisations Knowledge Hub.

Definitions of **bold** terms can be found in the Working with Children Check glossary at www.workingwithchildren.wa.gov.au