

SCREENING ...

“Why do we need to screen?”

“What does it include?”

“Which ‘Criminal History Record Check’ is required by law?”

WANT MORE INFORMATION ON SCREENING?

Safe Place Services (Adventist Church)

www.safeplaceservices.org.au

ACT—See www.ors.act.gov.au/community/working_with_vulnerable_people_wvpv

NSW—See <http://kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/Working-with-children-check>

NT— See <http://www.workingwithchildren.nt.gov.au/forms.html>

NZ— See www.justice.govt.nz/services/criminal-records/get-a-copy-of-your-criminal-record

QLD—See www.bluecard.qld.gov.au

SA—See www.sapolice.sa.gov.au/sapol/services/

TAS—See www.justice.tas.gov.au/working_with_children

VIC—See www.justice.vic.gov.au/workingwithchildren

WA—See www.checkwwc.wa.gov.au



Screening Staff who work with Children & Youth



Local Conference Safe-Place Coordinator:

**Seventh-day Adventist Churches
of Australia and New Zealand**

WHY DO WE NEED TO SCREEN VOLUNTEERS & STAFF WHO WORK WITH CHILDREN?

It is estimated in some regions that almost half of prison-sentenced child sexual offenders have an affiliation with a religious community. A survey of the Church's Conference and Departmental leaders, conducted by Safe Place Services in 2010, revealed that 84% believe predators may deliberately target the Adventist Church for potential child-victims. 91% believed that Screening was appreciated by families and the wider community. 83% disagreed that Screening simply keeps people busy but achieves little, whilst 90% reported that just because the Church is 'full of believers' it doesn't make it any safer. Because of the high risk of grooming and subsequent sexual assault of children and young people in sporting, recreational, cultural and religious organizations, the Church is committed to Screening volunteers and staff.

WHAT STEPS DOES SCREENING TAKE?

Screening includes the following elements:

1. A **Criminal History Record Check** is required in every State and Territory of Australia.
2. Beyond a Criminal History Record Check, the Church requires child-related workers to complete a **Staff & Volunteer Pledge**. This can be done online by visiting www.safeplaceservices.org.au and following the links to 'safeguarding churches' and 'online pledge'.
3. For staff and volunteers whose background is relatively unknown, or whose aptitude for working with Children or Youth has not been observed, **Referee Checks** should be undertaken.

In addition to Screening, the following Qualifying Periods must also apply to newly-appointed staff & volunteers:

1. 12-months if the person is new to the congregation from the general community or from another faith-based group
2. 6-months if the person is transferring from another Adventist church

These qualifying periods are intended to deter predators who might wander around seeking easy access to groom potential victims. The qualifying period also allows people new to the local Church to learn the unique mission and vision of the local Church for its programs with children and young people, and to get to know people before taking on a role or responsibility.

WHAT CRIMINAL CHECKS ARE NEEDED?

All Criminal History Record Checks for child-related work in Australia use CRIMTRAC. The Checks therefore cover all State, Territory, and Federal police jurisdictions, including certain overseas warrants. Some States do an extra check in addition to Criminal records, such as decisions by Registration Boards. In New Zealand, the Ministry of Justice provides a check Criminal convictions except for 'spent' (or 'historic') Convictions.

The following is a list of the Check that is required to be conducted, by law, in each region (more details can be found at the links listed on the back page of this brochure):

ACT A 'Working with Children and Vulnerable People' check is required.

NSW Staff (workers or volunteers) in child-related positions must apply for a Clearance Check every 5-years. The Clearance Number must be verified by the local Church or appointing body within the Church organization.

NT A 'Clearance Notice', also known as an 'Ochre Card', is required (a \$5 fee applies for volunteers).

QLD A 'Working with Children Check' (WWCC) is required, 3-yearly. Successful applicants are granted an ID card known as a 'Blue Card'.

SA A 'National Police Certificate' (NPC), no more than 3-months old, is required upon appointment. A subsequent NPC is required at least 3-yearly.

TAS A 'Working with Children Check Registration' is required, as of 1 July 2014. Staff and volunteers in "religious activities" are required to register by April 2015.

VIC A 'Working with Children Check' is required, 5-yearly. Successful applicants are granted an ID card. Application forms are available and can be lodged at Australia Post outlets.

WA A 'Working with Children Check' is required, 3-yearly. Successful applicants are granted an ID card. Application Forms are available and can be lodged at Australia Post outlets.

New Zealand A criminal history check is available, free, through the Ministry of Justice. See the website on the back page of this brochure for an application form. A licensing and vetting service is also available and used.