

This factsheet provides information about an adverse interstate Working with Children (WWC) decision and the associated obligations for **individuals** and **organisations** under the *Working with Children (Screening) Act 2004* (the Act) in Western Australia (WA). If you require assistance translating or interpreting the information in this factsheet, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450.

What is an adverse interstate WWC decision?

In August 2026, the [Working with Children \(Screening\) Amendment Bill 2025](#) (the Bill) passed the WA parliament enabling the mutual recognition of negative WWC screening outcomes across Australian states and territories. In WA, these outcomes are referred to as 'adverse interstate WWC decisions'.

This means an individual whose WWC Check has been refused or revoked in one state or territory, cannot be issued or hold a WWC Check in another state or territory. Please note, other states and territories may refer to a WWC Check by another name.

Examples of an adverse interstate WWC decision include:

- Issuing an interstate negative notice to an individual.
- Imposing conditions on an individual's WWC Card or ability to work with children. For example, an individual may be permitted to carry out child-related work only under supervision or for a specific employer.
- Imposing restrictions on, or suspending, an individual's WWC Card.
- Cancelling an individual's WWC Card following an assessment process. This is different from when an individual chooses to cancel their WWC Card because they no longer engage in [child-related work](#).

For the full list, refer to Section 8B of the [Act](#).

An adverse interstate WWC decision remains current unless the original negative outcome is cancelled by the issuing authority.

How are adverse decisions shared across states and territories?

When an individual applies for a WA WWC Check, they provide their consent for the WWC Screening Unit to undertake a Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check at the time of application/renewal, and the ongoing collection, use and disclosure of information about themselves that is relevant to their suitability to hold a WWC Card. Refer to [Factsheet APP01: Consent, informed and ongoing](#) and [Infographic APP14: Consent, informed and ongoing](#) for further information.

Checking against the WWC national reference system (WWC NRS) forms part of these initial and ongoing checks. This system is maintained by the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission and holds negative outcomes from all state and territory WWC schemes.

What happens when an individual has an adverse interstate WWC decision?

In most cases:

- If an individual has an adverse interstate WWC decision and applies for a WWC Check in WA, their application for a WWC Check will be withdrawn. A notification will be sent to both the individual and the organisation proposing to engage them in child-related work.
- If an individual already holds a WWC Card in WA, and the WWC NRS detects an adverse interstate WWC decision, their WWC Card will be cancelled. A notification will be sent to both the individual and the organisation engaging them, in child-related work.

There are instances where, instead of recognising the adverse interstate WWC decision, the WWC Screening Unit will proceed with their assessment and reach a decision about whether to issue a Negative Notice. This includes where:

- the individual has a pending charge or conviction for a [Class 1 offence](#) as an adult, which would result in the automatic issuing of a **negative notice**.
- the individual has been issued an **interim negative notice**.

Can an individual apply to have their adverse interstate WWC decision cancelled?

An individual who holds an adverse interstate WWC decision must contact the relevant WWC authority that issued the original negative outcome to request a review. The WA WWC Screening Unit cannot review, or overturn decisions made by another state or territory. A list of the WWC schemes across Australia can be found on our [website](#).

If the original decision is cancelled by that authority, the WWC NRS will be updated accordingly, and the individual would be eligible to apply for a WA WWC Check.

What are the individuals' obligations under the Act?

An individual who is the subject of an adverse interstate WWC decision must immediately cease all child-related work once their WA application is withdrawn or their WA card cancelled.

They are also prohibited from accessing the [child or parent volunteer exemption](#), the [unpaid student on placement under 18 years of age exemption](#), the [short term visitor to WA exemption](#) and the [one-off national events and national tours exemption](#). For further information refer to [Factsheet CRW04: Exemptions, Narrowing of access](#). Continuing to undertake child-related work in these circumstances is a breach of the Act and may lead to prosecution.

What do these changes mean to organisations?

If an organisation becomes aware that an employee, volunteer or student (including those accessing an exemption) is subject to an adverse interstate WWC decision, they must immediately take steps to ensure the person does not continue engaging in child-related work.

The [volunteer declaration](#) has been updated to include reference to having an adverse interstate WWC decision. The [Resource ORG01: WWC Check, Compliance toolkit](#) also provides additional tips for organisations to manage their WWC obligations.

Can organisations ask for all individuals to obtain a WWC Check?

No, the WWC Check is a targeted screening strategy for people engaging in child-related work.

Organisations cannot develop a policy for all individuals to obtain a WWC Check regardless of whether they are in child-related work or not. There are many other ways that organisations can create a friendly, child-safe environment, refer to [Safer WA for Children and Young People](#) for further information.

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