



Factsheet CRW03

Exemptions

The parent volunteer exemption

This factsheet provides a summary of the **parent volunteer exemption**. 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 the parent volunteer exemption?

Western Australia considers that voluntary work done by parents to support their children should not be regulated by legislation. Many parents give up their time to volunteer in organisations with their children like sporting clubs, schools, and churches and may be exempt from a Working with Children (WWC) Check under the *Working with Children (Screening) Act 2004* (the Act).











If a person is exempt from a WWC Check, they are ineligible to apply under the Act and the WWC Screening Unit actively monitor that parent volunteers aren't applying for a WWC Check when they shouldn't be. To safeguard children in these situations there are other **child** safety strategies which are more workable and effective.









Please note, the parent volunteer exemption only applies where the child of the parent is under 18 years of age.

Categories of child-related work

The parent volunteer exemption applies differently across the **categories** of [child-related work](#) and for some, there is no parent volunteer exemption, as outlined in the following table.

If a parent is volunteering in connection with more than one category, where a WWC Check may be required under one category but not another, they should select the category requiring a WWC Check. The exception to this is where a parent volunteers in connection with category 04 and 12, in this instance category 12 should be selected.

Category	Parent volunteer exemption	
	1. A child care service	A parent volunteering at the child care service at which the child is enrolled.
	2. A community kindergarten	A parent volunteering at the kindergarten at which the child is enrolled.
	3. An educational institution for children	A parent volunteering at the educational institution at which the child is enrolled.
	4. A coaching or private tuition service of any kind	A parent volunteering in the same activity in which their child participates, or ordinarily participates.
	5. An arrangement for the accommodation or care of children	A parent volunteering in the same activity in which their child participates, or ordinarily participates.
	6. A placement arrangement or secure care arrangement	No parent volunteer exemption.
	7. The performance by an officer (Department of Communities)	No parent volunteer exemption.
	8. A detention centre	No parent volunteer exemption
	9. A community child health service	A parent volunteering in the same activity in which their child participates, or ordinarily participates.
	10. A counselling or other support service	A parent volunteering in the same activity in which their child participates, or ordinarily participates.

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	11. A religious organisation A parent volunteering in the same activity in which their child participates, or ordinarily participates.
	12. A club, association or movement A parent volunteering at the same club, association or movement at which their child is involved, or ordinarily involved.
	13. A ward of a public or private hospital A parent volunteering in the same activity in which their child participates, or ordinarily participates.
	14. A baby sitting or child minding service A parent volunteering in the same activity in which their child participates, or ordinarily participates.
	15. An overnight camp No parent volunteer exemption.
	16. A transport service specifically for children A parent volunteering on a transport service in which their child is a passenger or is ordinarily a passenger.
	17. A school crossing service A parent volunteering at the school in which their child is enrolled.
	18. A children's entertainment or party service A parent volunteering in the same activity in which their child participates, or ordinarily participates.

Who is ineligible to access the parent volunteer exemption?

A person with a current **Interim Negative Notice** or **Negative Notice** is banned from accessing the parent volunteer exemption. For further information refer to [Factsheet CRW04: Exemptions, Narrowing of access.](#)

Does the parent volunteer exemption apply to grandparents, older siblings, and other relatives?

No. The exemption can only be used by a person who is defined as a parent in the Act. This includes a stepparent, de facto partner, prospective adoptive parent, and a person who has legal responsibility for the long term or day to day care and welfare and development of the child. If a grandparent, sibling, or any other **relative** (who does not have legal responsibility) is volunteering in child-related work, they must apply for a WWC Check (unless exempt under a different exemption).

What can organisations do to make their services safer for children?

The WWC Check is only one strategy to keep children safe. There are many things that employers and organisations that work with children can do to make sure their organisations are child-safe and child-friendly. For example, an organisation can have their own policy that requires parent volunteers to have a Volunteer National Police Certificate. 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