



# Factsheet CRW03

## Exemptions

### The parent volunteer exemption

Western Australia (WA) 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. The valuable contribution made by parent volunteers should be encouraged to help community groups function, and for children and families to reap the benefits. To safeguard children in these situations there are other child safety strategies which are more workable and effective.

### 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. In most cases the parent volunteer exemption can only be used by a person who is a 'parent', as defined in the *Working with Children (Screening) Act 2004*. 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.

### 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](#).

## Categories of child-related work and parent volunteer exemptions

The parent volunteer exemption applies only to certain **categories** of child-related work and only where the child of the parent is under 18 years of age. If a parent is volunteering in connection with a category where there is an exemption and one where there is not, the parent must apply the category where there is no exemption.

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

Category		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.
	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.

Definitions of **bold** terms can be found in the Working with Children Check glossary at [www.workingwithchildren.wa.gov.au](http://www.workingwithchildren.wa.gov.au)