Factsheet ORG09
Working with Children Check
Religious sector

This factsheet has been designed specifically for the religious 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 religious 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:
3. An educational institution for children	• school-based faith leaders.
8. A detention centre	• faith leaders at Banksia Hill Youth Detention Centre.
11. A religious organisation	• religious and faith leaders including Ministers, Chaplains, Rabbis, Priests, Acolytes, and Imams • people over 18 years of age providing Communion during the service • people providing religious instruction to children such as Sunday school, youth group and religious storytelling.
13. A ward of a private or public hospital	• faith leaders who meet with children on children's wards or wards where children are ordinarily present.
15. An overnight camp	• people working at an overnight camp for children even if they do not stay overnight themselves.

Frequently asked questions

I sing in the choir at my place of worship and there are also children in the choir, do I need a Working with Children (WWC) Check?

No. As you are participating in the choir you are not undertaking child-related work and a WWC Check is not required.

I give communion during Mass at my church, would the contact I have with children be considered incidental?

No. The contact you have with children is essential to the role and would not be incidental, and therefore a WWC Check is required.

If I volunteer to teach Sunday school or Little Pillars group but my child does not participate in the lessons, will I still be exempt as a parent volunteer?

No. To access the **parent volunteer** exemption under category 11 your child needs to be participating in the same activity with you. If they are not, you will need to apply for a WWC Check, refer to Factsheet CRW03: Exemptions, The parent volunteer exemption.

My religious organisation runs an annual youth camp. My daughter will be attending this year, and I am volunteering to supervise, can I use the parent volunteer exemption?

No. Overnight camps have their own category of child-related work: category 15, and there is no parent volunteer exemption in connection with that category. This means you require a WWC Check.

Our organisation has a large volunteer base, is everyone eligible to access the child and parent volunteer exemptions?

No. A person with a current **Interim Negative Notice** or **Negative Notice** is banned from

accessing the child and parent volunteer exemptions. For further information refer to Factsheet CRW04: Exemptions, Narrowing of access.

I volunteer selling clothes and other items to the public in the op shop for my religious organisation's charitable branch and this may involve contact with children. Do I need a WWC Check?

No. Category 11 does not extend to second hand clothing stores / op shops and no other applicable category of child-related work applies to the usual duties of the work described.

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