Factsheet ORG11
Working with Children Check
Culture and the arts sector

This factsheet has been designed specifically for the culture and the arts 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 culture and the arts 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:
4. A coaching or private tuition service of any kind	• performers delivering instructional sessions to children within schools e.g., dance or theatre companies • people who teach acting, dance, art, language, culture or music specifically to children whether as part of a class or as one-on-one instruction • registered training organisation staff who teach classes that are primarily for children or who teach children one-on-one as part of the child's training.
12. A club, association or movement	• directors, acting coaches and members of theatre clubs who have a formal role instructing children • instructors and other workers/volunteers of children's art clubs who have contact with children • dance teachers, assistants and other staff who have contact with children at a dance school.
13. A ward of a public or private hospital	• costumers, cosplayers or other children's entertainers who visit and interact with sick children in hospital.
18. A children's entertainment or party service	• magicians, clowns, cosplayers or interactive children's characters, if they have contact with children • people facilitating children's play programs and holiday activity programs.

Frequently asked questions

I perform in a stage show for children - do I need a Working with Children (WWC) Check?

No. The applicable category of child-related work for this scenario would be category 18, however, it has a specific exemption for performances open to the general public which do not involve physical contact with children, therefore a WWC Check is not required.

What if the show was to include an interactive element with the children i.e., bringing them onto stage or handing something out to the crowd?

If your show includes an interactive element requiring physical contact, then no exemption would apply and a WWC Check is required.

I am an actor in a local theatre club of which children are also members – do I need a WWC Check?

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

I am a director in a commercial production of Annie which includes children – do I need a WWC Check?

No. If both the children and adults in the production are employed by the same employer, they are considered to be 'working alongside'. This means that the contact is not child-related work and a WWC Check is not required.

Further to my role as a director with Annie, I also coach children one-on-one – is a WWC Check required in this scenario?

Yes. If you take on a coaching role with the children, separate to your role as director, you will require a WWC Check under category 04.

I work in a food truck that is often hired for community events where children are present – do I need a WWC Check?

No. Serving children food at a public event does not require a WWC Check. Even if the event

were a children's event, and captured under category 18, there is a specific exemption for services that provide food only.

I am volunteering on the registration table at a community art event, where there are children attending as well as adults – do I need a WWC Check?

No. There is no applicable category of child-related work for your role.

The same community arts group also host an annual children's book week festival, where I undertake the same role – do I need a WWC Check?

Yes. As this is a children's event, category 18 applies and if your role involves contact with children at the event you will require a WWC Check.

I am based interstate and part of a national opera company that is touring Australia for three weeks. We will be performing shows specifically for children that will include interactive activities – do I need a Western Australian (WA) WWC Check?

No. The WA WWC legislation provides a specific exemption for child-related work that is carried out by visitors to WA as long as the time in the state does not exceed two weeks. For more information about this exemption see our website.

I help run my local community group – what can we do to be a child-safe organisation?

The WWC Check is only one strategy to keep children safe. There are many things that organisations can do to make sure they are child-safe and child-friendly. For more information visit the Department of Communities' Child Safe Organisations Knowledge Hub.

What other resources are there to help my organisation comply with WWC legislation?

Our Resource ORG01: WWC Check, Compliance toolkit is a handy resource for organisations wanting to ensure they are on track with their compliance with the *Working with Children (Screening) Act 2004.*

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