GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Working with Children Check

Factsheet CAT13
Categories of child-related work
13: a ward of a public or private hospital

This factsheet has been designed specifically for work undertaken in connection with category 13 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.

A ward of a public or private hospital in which children are ordinarily patients includes all wards at the Perth Children's Hospital (PCH) and certain wards (including mental health wards) of other hospitals where adolescent children are ordinarily on wards with adults.

Emergency Departments, operating theatres, and some day surgery facilities, in which children are ordinarily patients, are also considered to be 'wards' in hospitals for the purposes of the *Working with Children (Screening) Act 2004.*

Roles considered to be in child-related work

Some examples of roles considered to be in child-related work are listed below. Please note that in all cases, for a role to be considered to be in child-related work, the **usual duties** of that role must involve, or be likely to involve, **contact** with a **child**. The examples provided may also be subject to exemptions.

Roles include:

- medical and paramedical staff working on a hospital ward where children are ordinarily patients
- hospital orderlies, cleaners and catering staff who are employed on wards of hospitals in which children are ordinarily patients and who have contact with children as part of their usual duties
- general practitioners or pediatricians visiting a ward where children are ordinarily patients
- health professionals providing pathology services, medical imaging/ sonagraph services and dentistry services, for example, to children on a ward where children are ordinarily patients

- **volunteers** for visitor schemes having contact with children on a ward where children are ordinarily patients.

Please note, an external contractor who attends the hospital and only has **incidental** contact with the children, is not considered to be in child-related work; please refer to the Contractors and Working with Children Check obligations bulletin.

Exemptions

The following exemptions apply to this category:

- child volunteers under 18 years of age
- unpaid **students** on placement under 18 years of age
- **short-term visitors** to Western Australia
- a **parent** volunteering in the same activity in which their child participates, or ordinarily participates, refer to Factsheet CRW03: Exemptions, The parent volunteer exemption.

For frequently asked questions relating to this category, please refer to Factsheet ORG06: WWC Check, Health sector.

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