

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. The WWC Screening Unit actively monitors that parent volunteers who are exempt are not applying for a WWC Check. 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 each **category** of [child-related work](#) and for some, there is no parent volunteer exemption, as outlined in the table below.

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 when 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, but not including an <b>informal arrangement</b> entered into for private or domestic purposes                                                                                                               | 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 whether in a residential facility or private residence, but not including an informal arrangement made by a parent of the child concerned or accommodation or care provided by a relative of the child | A parent volunteering in the same activity in which their child participates or ordinarily participates. |
|  | 6. A placement arrangement or secure care arrangement under the <i>Children and Community Services Act 2004</i>                                                                                                                                                    | No parent volunteer exemption.                                                                           |
|  | 7. The performance by an officer, as defined in the <i>Children and Community Services Act 2004</i> section 3, of a function given to the officer under that Act                                                                                                   | No parent volunteer exemption.                                                                           |

| Category                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Parent volunteer exemption                                                                                                |
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|    | 8. A detention centre, as defined in the <i>Young Offenders Act 1994</i> section 3                                                                                                                                                                                               | 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.                  |
|    | 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 (including of a cultural, recreational or sporting nature and whether incorporated or not) with a significant membership or involvement of children, but not including an informal arrangement entered into for private or domestic purposes | 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 in which children are ordinarily patients                                                                                                                                                                                             | A parent volunteering in the same activity in which their child participates or ordinarily participates.                  |
|  | 14. A baby sitting or child minding service, but not including an informal arrangement entered into for private or domestic purposes                                                                                                                                             | A parent volunteering in the same activity in which their child participates or ordinarily participates.                  |
|  | 15. An overnight camp                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | No parent volunteer exemption.                                                                                            |

| Category | Parent volunteer exemption |
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|  | 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, being a service provided to assist children to cross roads on their way to or from school | 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**, **negative notice** or **adverse interstate WWC decision** 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, 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 [Safer WA for Children and Young People website](#).

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)