

This factsheet provides information about an adverse interstate Working with Children (WWC) decision and the associated obligations for **individuals** and **organisations** under the *Working with Children (Screening) Act 2004* (the Act) in Western Australia (WA). 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 an adverse interstate WWC decision?

In September 2026, the Act was amended to prohibit persons who are the subject of an adverse interstate WWC decision from carrying out child-related work in WA.

This means an individual whose WWC Check has been refused or revoked in another state or territory, cannot be issued or hold a WWC Check in WA. Please note, other states and territories may refer to a WWC Check or WWC Card by another name.

Adverse interstate WWC decisions include decisions made by a corresponding interstate WWC scheme to:

- issue an interstate negative notice to an individual.
- impose conditions on an individual's WWC Card or ability to carry out child-related work. For example, requiring the individual to work only under supervision or for a specific employer.
- impose temporary restrictions on an individual's WWC Card, such as an interim bar or suspension.
- cancel an individual's WWC Card following an assessment process. This is different from when an individual chooses to cancel or surrender their WWC Card because they no longer engage in [child-related work](#).

For the full list, refer to Section 8B of the [Act](#).

A person is the subject of an adverse interstate WWC decision if it is still in effect, for example, until it is overturned on review or appeal, or revoked in the state or territory that made the decision.

## **How are adverse interstate WWC decisions shared across states and territories?**

The WWC national reference system (WWC NRS), maintained by the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, records adverse interstate WWC decisions made by participating Australian states and territories.

Under the Act, the WWC Screening Unit must check the WWC NRS when assessing an application for a WA WWC Check, to determine whether the person is the subject of an adverse interstate WWC decision. This is in addition to other criminal history checks.

The Act also authorises access to the WWC NRS for ongoing monitoring purposes while an individual holds a current WWC Card or has a pending application for a WWC Check or cancellation of a negative notice.

## **What happens when an individual is the subject of an adverse interstate WWC decision?**

In most cases:

- if the WWC Screening Unit is aware that an individual who has applied for a WWC Check in WA is the subject of an adverse interstate WWC decision, their application for a WWC Check will be withdrawn. A notice will be sent to the individual.
- if an individual already holds a current WWC Card in WA, and the WWC Screening Unit becomes aware that they are the subject of an adverse interstate WWC decision, their WWC Card will be cancelled. A notice will be sent to the individual.

Notices will also be sent to the organisation engaging, or proposing to engage, the individual in child-related work.

If an individual, who is the subject of an adverse interstate WWC decision, already has a current interim negative notice in WA, the WWC Screening Unit will still complete their assessment. If the final decision is for an assessment notice (WWC Card) to be issued, the individual's interim negative notice will be cancelled but a WWC Card cannot be issued

because of the adverse interstate WWC decision.

## **Can the WA WWC Screening Unit remove a person's adverse interstate WWC decision?**

No. The WA WWC Screening Unit cannot review or overturn an adverse interstate WWC decision made by a corresponding interstate WWC scheme. Individuals will need to approach the relevant interstate WWC scheme that made the adverse interstate WWC decision, before they can apply for a WA WWC Check or carry out child-related work in WA. A list of the WWC schemes across Australia can be found below.

If the adverse interstate WWC decision is cancelled by the corresponding interstate WWC scheme or is otherwise no longer in effect, the person can re-apply for a WA WWC Check, refer to [Working with Children Check - Application and renewal process](#) for further information.

## **What are the individuals' obligations under the Act?**

An individual who is the subject of an adverse interstate WWC decision must immediately cease all child-related work once they receive written notice from the WWC Screening Unit that advises them that their application for a WA WWC Check is withdrawn or their WA WWC Card is cancelled.

Individuals who are the subject of an adverse interstate WWC decision are also prohibited from accessing the [child or parent volunteer exemption](#), the [unpaid student on placement under 18 years of age exemption](#), the [short term visitor to WA exemption](#) and the [one-off national events and national tours exemption](#). For further information refer to [Factsheet CRW04: Exemptions, Narrowing of access](#). Continuing to undertake child-related work in these circumstances is a breach of the Act and may lead to prosecution.

## **What do these changes mean to organisations?**

If an organisation becomes aware that an individual (including those accessing an exemption) is the subject of an adverse interstate WWC decision, they must immediately take steps to ensure the individual is removed from child-related work.

The [volunteer declaration](#) has been updated to include reference to having an adverse interstate WWC decision and the [Resource ORG01: WWC Check, Compliance toolkit](#) also provides additional tips for organisations to manage their WWC obligations.

## What are the other WWC schemes?

- Australia Capital Territory - [Working with Vulnerable People](#) – telephone 13 22 81
- Queensland - [Working with Children Check \(Blue Card\)](#) – telephone 1800 113 611 or (07) 3211 6999
- New South Wales - [Working with Children Check](#) – telephone (02) 8219 3777
- Northern Territory - [Working with Children Clearance \(Ochre Card\)](#) – telephone 1800 723 368 or (08) 8985 8985
- South Australia - [Working with Children Check](#) – telephone 1300 321 592
- Tasmania - [Registration to Work with Vulnerable People](#) – telephone 1300 654 499
- Victoria - [Working with Children Check](#) – telephone 1300 652 879 or 13 28 42

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)