

FAQ – Working with Children Checks

Do I still need to complete the SLSNSW Membership Protection Declaration Form?

No. This form is not required to be completed members.

Who needs a check?

Any SLS member who works with members under the age of 18 will need to complete the check, however a number of exemptions do apply. Please review the flowchart in the 2019 SLSNSW Working With Children Check Overview to determine if you need a WWCC for your role.

What does a WWCC Number look like?

A WWCC Number for a paid position will have an 'E' on the end (e.g. WWC1234567E). A WWCC Number for a volunteer position will have a 'V' on the end (e.g. WWC1234567V).

Do volunteers need to pay for a WWCC?

No, WWCCs for volunteers are free. WWCCs for paid workers are \$80.

Can I use a volunteer WWC Number (WWC1234567V) for a paid position?

No. You must go online and upgrade to a WWCC for paid employees.

Can I use a paid WWC Number (WWC1234567E) for a volunteer position?

Yes, a WWCC Number gained for a paid position can be used for both paid and volunteer positions.

Can I start working before my WWCC number comes back?

If there is urgent need for a member to start in a role before the WWCC comes back, a WWCC Application Number can be provided to the club to use for verification. Please note that an Application Number can only be used to verify after proof of identity has been supplied to the NSW Motor Registry and the WWCC Number will still need to be provided to the club for re-verification once received.

I'm a parent, am I exempt from getting a WWCC?

Under the legislation, parents who volunteer for an activity in which their child or children participate are exempt from obtaining a WWCC. This is not a blanket exception for all parents.

Parents will require a WWCC if they:

- are volunteering on overnight camps;
- are volunteering for an activity where their child is not participating (e.g. for a different age group in Nippers or for a different training squad)
- are volunteering as part of a formal mentoring program; or
- are volunteering in a role which involves intimate, personal care of children with a disability.

Where can I get a WWCC Number?

Apply online at [Office of Children's Guardian](#).

How long is a WWCC valid for?

A WWCC requires renewal every 5 years.

How can I check my personal WWCC Number or Expiry Date?

To find your WWCC Number – log on to the [Office of Children's Guardian](#), and click on the '[Lost my WWC Number](#)' button on the home screen.

A member of my club is a Police Officer. Do they still need a WWCC?

NSW Police and Australian Federal Police are exempt from the requirements to get a WWCC in their role as a police officer, however they are not exempt in any other roles that they hold – including a child-related role in their club. For more information visit [Office of Children’s Guardian](#).

Can I ask people not covered by the legislation to complete a WWCC?

No. Asking someone who is covered by an exemption under the Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012 to complete a WWCC means that you are not compliant with the legislation. If you are not compliant with the legislation, you may be contacted by the Office of the Children’s Guardian and given a timeline within which to become compliant. If you do not comply according to the timelines, the matter can escalate and penalties may apply.

The Office of the Children’s Guardian recently reviewed the scope of the WWCC scheme (whether it targets the right people) and found strong and continuing support for the policy objectives. The review was tabled in NSW Parliament in March 2018.

Further information is available here:

[WWCC Compliance Program](#)

[Statutory Review of the Child Protection \(Working with Children\) Act 2012](#)

Which roles in SLS don’t need a WWCC and why?

When reviewing the table below, please note that:

- The information in the table below applies only to the role being described. If a member performs multiple roles in Surf Life Saving, they may be required to complete a WWCC for one or more of their other roles.
- Just because a role is not mentioned, it does not mean that they automatically are required to hold a WWCC – there are a number of exemptions relating to the frequency and context of the role being performed.

For more comprehensive information relating to WWCCs and the exemptions that apply, please see the 2019 SLSNSW Working With Chicken Check Overview.

Position	Reason why a WWCC is not needed
Administrative, maintenance or ancillary work (<i>this includes BBQ and canteen helpers</i>).	These roles do not ordinarily involve contact with children for extended periods of time. Therefore, they are not deemed as child-related work.
Committee member (including Chief Training Officers, Club Captains etc.)	
Officials/event assistants at a sporting event.	These roles do not ordinarily involve contact with children for extended periods without other adults being present. Therefore, they are not deemed as child-related work.
Patrol Captain, Patrol Vice Captains and patrol members	Although people under the age of 18 may hold positions in lifesaving alongside adults, there is an exemption for co-workers and supervisors in the child’s ‘place of work’.

What extensions to WWCC clearances/renewals are in place in response to COVID-19?

The Office of Children's Guardian has [extended all WWCC clearances](#) that were due to expire from 26 March 2020 to 26 September 2020 for a further six months. This has been automatically updated in SurfGuard.