

# Working with Children at Landcare Events

## *how the new Working With Children Check affects Landcare*

From time to time, many Landcare groups conduct activities involving children. Legally speaking, a 'child' refers to any person less than 18 years of age.

In SA Screening and Background Checks are undertaken by the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI) Screening Unit. The new model is consistent with other state and territory checks.

### WHO NEEDS A CHECK?

Under the SA legislation, this is an employer-driven process, conducted on behalf of organisations to assess individuals who are currently working or under consideration to be engaged in an employment or volunteer role. If you are involved in an organisation that provides services for children, including events such as tree planting, enviro-education, school visits and community working bees, where you come in regular **face-to-face contact** with children, you must undergo a check.

### WHAT DOES A CHECK INVOLVE?

Screening and Background Checks involve a national police check and review of findings of misconduct involving children, and the result is either a clearance to work with children for three years, or a bar against working with children.

If the outcome is a clearance, your Check will be **valid for three years** for any child-related work in SA.

### HOW TO APPLY FOR A CHECK

The Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI) Screening Unit provides an online application at [www.dcsi.sa.gov.au/services/screening](http://www.dcsi.sa.gov.au/services/screening). The Check requires a 100 point identification check, which can be completed online using the Documentation Verification Service.

### HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

For paid staff, the child related and disability check cost is \$101.75 (incl GST, as at 1 July 2015). For volunteers and students the cost is \$56.10 (incl GST, as at 1 July 2015).

### EXEMPTIONS

There are few exemptions for Screening and Background Checks as it is conducted as part of a preventative approach towards the care and protection of vulnerable people in our community.

In effect, it is a relatively inexpensive risk management tool for Landcare Groups and Networks paid staff and volunteers.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

The Office for Volunteers provides information and factsheets about screening. Visit: [www.ofv.sa.gov.au/publications-and-research](http://www.ofv.sa.gov.au/publications-and-research).



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