

Relevant history screening

Practical information for school and preschool leaders

Updated: 10 August 2018

Changes to relevant history screening were announced on Monday 25 January 2016.

This information provides school and preschool staff with practical information to assist in implementing these changes.

What has changed?

Parents and guardians no longer require a screening if:

- they are volunteering in connection with an activity which involves their own child (except in child care centres where a Department of Human Services (DHS) child related screening is required)
- they are members of a governing council which is not the employing authority for an out of school hours care service (OSHC).

Sporting and community groups that hire or use Department for Education sites or facilities (where the use of the site or facility is not connected with a department program or activity) must decide if screening is required, what kind of screening is required and who needs to be screened.

These groups will need to consider their legal obligations, any specific contract requirements and whether people involved perform prescribed functions.

What hasn't changed?

Screening will continue to apply to:

- all department employees (teachers are screened through the TRB)
- volunteers working closely with children with disabilities
- sports coaches who are employed or volunteering in connection with a school based sporting program and are not parents or guardians of a child in the team
- parent volunteers, if their own child is not involved in the service or activity
- people attending overnight camps and school sleep overs
- governing council members who do not have a child at the school or where the governing council is the employing authority for an OSHC
- hosts of billets or homestay students
- tertiary students and supervisors
- adult re entry students who have been out of school for 6 months or more
- student undertaking work experience in a preschool or child care centre
- some contractors and third party providers (refer to online screening guide for criteria).

What kind of screening applies?

With the exception of teachers who are screened through the Teachers Registration Board, the Department for Education only accepts a DHS child related employment screening.

Examples of where screening **WOULD NOT** apply

A parent or guardian who takes part in an activity **which involves their own child**

Examples include:

- assisting in their child's classroom activity such as reading
- assisting in an outdoor activity involving their own child, such as the kitchen, garden or playtime
- coaching their child's sports team
- transporting students in the company of their own child.

As before, screening is not required to:

- attend one off events such as sports days, working bees, swimming week and whole of school events
- attend excursions (providing excursion involves their own children)
- visit a school, preschool or early childhood service
- continue studies in a public school after turning 18 (unless there has been a break of 6 months or more)
- provide workplace experience to high school students.

Examples of where screening **WOULD** apply

A parent or guardian who takes part in an activity **which does NOT involve their own child**

Examples include:

- assisting children in another class, such as mentoring or tutoring
- transporting children not in the company of their own child
- coaching a sports team where their own child is not part of the team.

A parent or guardian who provides volunteering support to the school, preschool or early childhood service more generally, such as helping in the school canteen or uniform shop.

A person who volunteers, including a member of the governing council, who does not have a child at the school, preschool or early childhood service.

For further information: screening liaison officer, 8226 0430 or Education.HRConfidential@sa.gov.au.