

Changes to the Working with Children Check effective from October 2026

Learn about the Working with Children Connect online service and mandatory child safety training



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Working with Children Check: key changes

Victoria's Working with Children (WWC) Check has been strengthened to better protect children by improving how child safety risks are identified and assessed.

The changes commenced on 28 July 2026. They are part of a suite of reforms to Victoria's child safeguarding system and respond to recommendations from the [Rapid Child Safety Review](#).

In October 2026, Victoria is further strengthening the Working with Children (WWC) Check with the WWC Connect online service and mandatory child safety training.

Together, these changes will help organisations make safer decisions about the people they engage to work or volunteer with children.

Working with Children Connect

WWC Connect is a new online service that will enable organisations (including sole traders) to connect workers (including volunteers) they engage to do child-related work. This will help organisations provide accurate information to the Social Services Regulator (SSR) about the people they engage and receive notifications if a worker's WWC Clearance status changes.

What organisations will need to do in October to comply with the new requirements

- 1. Check** – use the WWC status checker to verify a person's WWC Clearance before engaging them in child-related work.
- 2. Connect** – when ready to formally engage, connect them to your organisation using WWC Connect.
- 3. Record** – keep appropriate records to show you have completed the required checks and connection.
- 4. Maintain** – keep your WWC Connect records up to date as workers start or stop doing child-related work for you and if their contact details change.

Organisations are also strongly encouraged to connect their existing workers. This will provide a more complete view of your child-related workforce. It will help ensure you receive notifications if someone's WWC Clearance status changes.

What organisations can do now to prepare for the changes in October

- Use the WWC status checker to verify the clearance details for your workers are accurate.
- Make sure you have information about your workers ready to enter into WWC Connect as soon as it becomes available.

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- Review relevant processes and identify where changes may be needed. This includes recruitment, onboarding, record-keeping and workforce management processes.

New mandatory child safety training

Mandatory child safety training will also be introduced from 19 October 2026.

The training is mandatory for:

- new WWC Check applicants
- people renewing their WWC Clearance.

They must complete the training before their WWC Check application can be finalised.

The training is an online, self-paced course which takes approximately 30–45 minutes. It is suitable for all sectors and settings that need a WWC Clearance. An offline paper-based version of the training is also available.

The training will cover:

- the role we all play in keeping children safe
- respectful and appropriate behaviour with children
- the prevalence of child abuse in society
- recognising concerning behaviour and grooming risk factors
- responding and acting when concerned about a child's safety.

The training will help build a consistent understanding of child safety responsibilities across Victoria's child-related workforce.

Find out more

Visit [Working with Children Connect and mandatory child-safety training](#) on the SSR's website for information about WWC Connect and mandatory child safety training.

Visit www.vic.gov.au/working-with-children-check on the SSR's website for detailed information about the reforms, eligibility assessments and review rights.

For queries about the changes to Working with Children Check email contact@ssr.vic.gov.au. If you are unable to email us, you can call us on [1300 310 778](tel:1300310778).

Contact us to receive this document in another format. Please email the Social Services Regulator at contact@ssr.vic.gov.au.

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