

Peter Primrose MLC

Minister for Small Business,
Minister for Volunteering, Minister for Youth,
Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs



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Reminder: new laws for working with children come into force soon

The Minister for Youth, Peter Primrose, today reminded employers that tougher measures around the Working With Children Check will soon be in force in NSW and new forms and guidelines are available on the Commission for Children and Young People's website.

"The Working With Children Check forms and the guidelines that are used by employers to recruit people in child-related employment have been updated to reflect new laws and to make them much easier to use by employers," Mr Primrose said.

The NSW Government recently expanded the Working With Children Check legislation to help strengthen the processes around employers managing risks to children's safety and wellbeing in their workplaces.

From March 31, adults who volunteer their services to provide personal care for disabled children (such as volunteer respite care) and who are involved in mentoring programs for disadvantaged children will also require a Working With Children Check before they can commence in these roles.

Other changes include extending the Working With Children Check to adults who live with foster carers and family day care providers, those who are licensees of child care services, and students involved with training placements with the Department of Community Services.

"These comprehensive changes to the Working With Children Check are part of the NSW Government's response to the Special Commission of Inquiry into the Child Protection Services in NSW," Mr Primrose said.

Mr Primrose said the NSW Commission for Children and Young People has begun contacting nearly 5,000 employers to suggest they start familiarising themselves with the new forms now.

"The Commission has also recently launched a new, interactive Working With Children Check micro-site to enable quicker access to the forms and Guidelines, as part of a series of improvements to the Commission's online presence planned for the next few months."

The NSW Commission for Children and Young People will be contacting volunteer and carer organisations to help them with their new obligations.

The new Working With Children Check forms and guidelines can be found at the NSW Commission for Children and Young People's website at www.kids.nsw.gov.au