

How is a Registration to Work with Vulnerable People different to other checks?



What is a Registration to Work with Vulnerable People?

Under the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People (RWVP) Scheme, anyone who works or volunteers with vulnerable people, including children, in a regulated activity must hold a RWVP.



What we assess

When you apply for a RWVP, you will undergo a background check and risk assessment. This is to make sure you are suitable to work or volunteer with vulnerable people, including children.

A national criminal history check will show if you have any relevant charges or convictions. This includes looking at:

- convictions for criminal offences
- all spent convictions (convictions that don't ordinarily need to be declared)
- any pending charges (charges that haven't yet been decided by the court)
- all non-conviction charges (charges that have been finalised by the court but didn't result in a conviction).

Other information we assess includes criminal (police) intelligence, family violence history, child protection history, and any other relevant information that is revealed during the risk assessment process. We may also ask you directly for further information during this process.

We also receive information about non-relevant offences (such as minor traffic offences) which on their own, will not affect your application for a RWVP.

Once you have a RWVP, you will be monitored throughout your registration for any new information about your conduct. This is aided by Tasmania Police, Child Safety Services and others who share information with the RWVP Scheme about the reportable behaviour of individuals. This may trigger a new risk assessment, and you may be asked for additional information or have your RWVP suspended or cancelled.



Is a RWVP the same as a police check?

No, the background check and risk assessment done for a RWVP is different to a national criminal history check (which is often called a police check).

A national criminal history check is **part** of the RWVP process, but as stated above, we also receive information about charges that would not usually appear on a national criminal history check. The background check we do also considers additional information such as criminal (police) intelligence, family violence history, child protection history and any other relevant history.

Any organisation you wish to work or volunteer for may also ask you to have a police check, if this is part of their policy.



Is a WWCC a RWVP?

In Tasmania, there is one scheme and one registration that covers worker screening for both child and adult regulated activities: Registration to Work with Vulnerable People (RWVP).

Other states do this differently, with stand-alone Working With Children Checks (WWCC) schemes. In the context of national approaches to worker screening for child-related work, a RWVP is considered the same as a WWCC.



Is a RWVP the same as an occupational licence?

No, because a RWVP does not consider or require qualifications or experience.

An occupational licence (for example, one held by an electrician, plumber or builder) usually verifies the qualifications and competence of someone in that occupation. It may require certain levels of expertise and experience, and ongoing professional development.

Occupational licenses are usually regulated by sector bodies: for example, the Teachers Registration Board and Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.



Is a RWVP the same as a good character check?

No. Applying for and being granted a RWVP is separate to the character checks that are used by some sectors' regulating bodies.

For example, anyone wanting teacher registration in Tasmania must be of good character and fit to teach. This is assessed through the Teachers Registration Board. Teachers must also hold a RWVP.

RWVP focusses on and assesses the risk that someone poses to vulnerable people, including children. For example, if someone applies for a child-related RWVP and they are convicted of fraud against a government agency, they may be deemed not of good character through other checks; but the risk they pose to a child is deemed low, so they could still hold a RWVP.



Can I use a RWVP to screen for workplace bullying or sexual harassment?

A RWVP does not replace an organisation's normal human resources processes, recruitment checks, codes of conduct, and/or policies about matters such as workplace bullying or sexual harassment.

Our risk assessments may consider someone's past conduct such as bullying and sexual harassment, but only as it relates to the risk they pose to vulnerable people, including children.

Employers are not notified of what we consider in our risk assessment, only the outcome (that is, if the worker or volunteer is granted a RWVP or not; or if an existing worker or volunteer has their RWVP status changed).





Laws

You can find the *Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013* and Regulations 2024 and relevant orders at www.justice.tas.gov.au/rwvp



Further information

You can find other fact sheets and further detail on offences, disqualifying offences, reportable behaviour, and more at www.justice.tas.gov.au/rwvp