

Child Safe Environments

Safeguarding children's safety and well-being is the shared responsibility of the whole community.

Since 2008, some organisations providing services to children and young people have been required by law to take steps to establish child safe environments. Recent changes to the Children's Protection Act 1993 extend the steps these organisations must take to help protect the children in their care.

What organisations are affected by the changes?

The changes apply to all organisations that provide the following services wholly or partly for children:

- health
- welfare
- education
- sporting or recreational
- religious or spiritual
- child care
- residential service

What do these organisations need to do?

Under the changes, these organisations will be required to:

- conduct criminal history assessments on employees, contractors and volunteers who are working with children (unless an exemption applies); and
- lodge a Child Safe Environment Compliance Statement with the Department for Families and Communities.

When do organisations need to comply?

Criminal History Assessments

The requirement to conduct criminal history assessments will be phased-in over three-years, commencing on 1 January 2011 and concluding on 31 December 2013. Every six months different organisations will be required to commence the process to conduct criminal history assessments on people working with children.

Organisations will need to check when their sector is being phased-in and ensure criminal history assessments are conducted for all new and existing staff and volunteers who are working with children by the conclusion of their phase-in date.



Child Safe Environment Compliance Statement

The requirement that organisations lodge a child safe environment compliance statement with the Department for Families and Communities will commence on 1 January 2011. However, organisations may lodge their statement earlier if they choose.

Organisations can go to www.families.sa.gov.au/childsafes to complete and lodge their statement online. Alternatively, organisations can download and post their compliance statement to the Department for Families and Communities.

More information

Further information is available from:

Website:

www.families.sa.gov.au/childsafes

Email:

DFCChildSafe@dfc.sa.gov.au

Phone: 8463 6468