

A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN & VULNERABLE PEOPLE

REQUIREMENTS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF ROTARY CLUBS

BACKGROUND: Rotary District 9500 and Rotary Clubs place great emphasis on their work with people in the community, including children, youth and other vulnerable persons, through Rotary's many programs. It is important to both the District and Clubs that the interests of everyone are protected, and a safe and respectful environment for all participants in Rotary programs or activities is created and maintained.

Attention is drawn to relevant legislation: the Children's Protection Act 1993 and Children's Protection Regulations 2010 (SA) and Care and Protection of Children Act (2007) and Care and Protection of Children Guidelines (NT).

From April 11 2015, new requirements will apply to volunteers who work in any health, welfare, education, sporting or recreational, religious or spiritual, childcare, residential, cultural, entertainment or party environment to have

- A child related employment screening certificate or letter issued by the Department of Communities and Social Inclusion Screening Unit (DCSI) in SA or an Ochre Card in NT
- A criminal history report prepared by the South Australian police or a Crim Trac accredited agency or an Ochre Card (NT).

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ROTARY CLUBS?

All SA and NT Rotary Clubs are advised that each club must ensure that

- The Club has a *Protection Officer*
- All Rotarians in the Club must have either a Police Clearance Certificate* or DCSI Screening Certificate or letter* (SA) or Ochre Card (NT) sighted by the Club *Protection Officer* and the expiry date recorded.

*Any Rotarian, or anyone supporting Rotary in any endeavour in SA, must have a DCSI Screening Certificate or letter where there is

- Regular contact with children, or close proximity to them on a regular basis
- Access to records relating to children
- Overnight care of children
- Any health, welfare, education, sport, recreation or residential function with children.

Refer as appropriate to <http://www.dcsi.sa.gov.au/services/screening>; <http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/docs/documents/1/CSEStdsInfoCrimHist.pdf>; <http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/docs/documents/1/ChildSafeEnvironGoodPrac.pdf> or <http://www.workingwithchildren.nt.gov.au/categories.html>

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE? A National Police Clearance is simply a record of a person's disclosable criminal conviction history. A Police Clearance is free with a VOAN number obtainable from the Club's *Protection Officer* and is valid for 3 years. (SA only)

The DCSI Screening Unit has access to additional sources of information, including child protection information, care concerns investigations, cross-jurisdictional expanded criminal history and police reports and involves a risk assessment specifically focused on the applicant's risk of harm to children in a volunteer environment. A DCSI Screening costs \$55.00 for volunteers and students and is valid for 3 years. (SA only)

An Ochre Card is the photo identification card that is issued once a Working with Children Clearance Notice has been received. It can be kept in a wallet as proof of clearance to work or volunteer in 'child-related' work. Cost is \$5.00 for volunteers and is valid for 2 years.

WHY DO WE NEED TO DO THIS? Obtaining a Police Clearance Certificate/DCSI Certificate or letter/Ochre Card is part of a preventative approach towards the care and protection of children and vulnerable people in our community. It is also an indicator to the community that Rotarians and Rotary Clubs have taken this preventative and protective measure to protect children and vulnerable people at the highest level.

WHO IS INVOLVED? All Rotarians, including Honorary Rotarians, Friends of Rotary, partners of Rotarians and family members over the age of 18 years (15 in NT) who are active in Rotary projects and programs. Under existing legislation in SA, Registered Teachers and Police Officers are exempt from a PCC or DCSI check. They should provide proof of their status to their Club's *Protection Officer*.

EXAMPLES: a) Any RYLA/RYPEN/YEP Committee Member; and anyone who regularly meets or works with any young or vulnerable person on a regular basis needs a current DCSI Screening Certificate or letter/Ochre Card.

b) Any one who has any contact with children or vulnerable people at any time through any Rotary project or program needs a current Police Clearance/Ochre Card.

*Rotary International is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for all participants in Rotary activities...
Taken from Rotary International's Code of Conduct for Working with Youth 2002*