



dhcs | ACT

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Working with Vulnerable People Checks for the ACT

The ACT Government is developing a '*Working with Vulnerable People Checks*' system for the ACT to assist in reducing the incidence of abuse of vulnerable persons. Abuse can include physical, sexual, financial, psychological, social abuse and neglect.

Once the system is implemented, certain employees and volunteers who work with vulnerable people will be required to undergo a criminal record check and other background checks prior to engagement. Persons deemed to pose an unacceptable risk will be disqualified from working with vulnerable persons.

Who are vulnerable people?

Vulnerable people include children and young people, as well as certain vulnerable adults, on the basis of personal capacity and particular circumstance.

Who will be checked?

Employees and volunteers who work with vulnerable persons in a direct and unsupervised capacity will be subject to background screening.

How is the system being developed?

The ACT Government is examining similar systems that are in place in other Australian States and Territories as well as those in operation overseas. The regulatory system will be compliant with the ACT *Human Rights Act 2004* and the *National Framework for Creating Safe Environments for Children – Organisations, Employees and Volunteers*.

A community consultation paper will be released for comment in 2009. Interested persons or organisations are encouraged to engage in the consultation process.

It is expected that the *Working with Vulnerable People Checks* system will be phased in over a number of years commencing 2010.

Who can I contact for more information?

The ACT Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services is taking the lead role in policy development and will work in partnership with the Office for Regulatory Services, JACS. For more information concerning the development of the system or to register your interest in participating in the community consultation process, please contact:

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