



## Working with Vulnerable People Checks for the ACT

The ACT Government is committed to the support and protection of vulnerable people. As part of this commitment, the ACT Government is developing a centralised background checking and risk assessment system for people working with vulnerable people in the ACT to reduce the risk of sexual, physical, emotional or financial harm or neglect.

### Who are vulnerable people?

Vulnerable people include children and vulnerable adults who access certain services to relieve disadvantage. Examples of these services include schools, child care, justice places, health care, transport, religious groups, clubs and a range of social services.

### Who will be checked?

Employees and volunteers who have contact with vulnerable people as part of the provision of certain services will be checked. Suitable people will be registered to work with vulnerable people for up to three years. Rechecking will not be required when registered people change employers. Unregistered people will generally be ineligible to work with vulnerable people.

### How has the system been developed?

On 19 August 2009, the ACT Government released a discussion paper on a proposed checking system and invited comments from the ACT community. Thirty-eight formal submissions were received and a consultation report was released in February 2010. Stakeholder submissions were considered in the finalisation of a policy position which is now available.

On 26 August 2010, the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, Ms Joy Burch MLA, tabled the *Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010* in the ACT Legislative Assembly. The Bill was accompanied by a memorandum from the ACT Attorney-General stating that the Bill is compliant with the ACT *Human Rights Act 2004*.

### Are there any costs?

A tax-deductible application fee of \$71 will apply to individual applicants who primarily require a check as part of their employment. There will be no fee for applicants who are volunteers.





# fact sheet

## Implementation

It is expected that the checking system will be phased in over a number of years commencing late 2011. Volunteers and new employees will be checked in the first three years, while existing employees will be checked from year four.

## Who can I contact for more information?

For more information concerning the checking system, please contact:

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## Useful resources

Key documents including the discussion paper, consultation report and policy position can be downloaded at:  
[www.dhcs.act.gov.au/publications/wwwvpc](http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/publications/wwwvpc)

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