

Understanding Children's Worker Safety Checks

 Read time: 3 mins

We are improving the way we manage Children's Worker Safety Checks (CWSC) to help keep Aotearoa's children, rangatahi, and whānau safe, and to ensure that ACC continues to comply with its legal responsibilities under the Children's Act 2014. Safety checking isn't just required by law, it's the right thing to do.

What is a Children's Worker Safety Check?

A CWSC is a legislative requirement under the Children's Act 2014. If someone in your organisation currently works with, or may in the future work with, tamariki under the age of 18 without a parent or guardian present, they may need to complete a CWSC. This includes face-to-face, over the phone, and email contact. These checks are more than just police vetting. They are a legislative requirement with the aim of reducing harm to tamariki and rangatahi.

What does a Children's Worker Safety Check Involve?

You can complete a safety check for your employees, and anyone you engage, internally within your organisation, or externally via CV Check.

Once a year, you will receive an online form requesting you to provide ACC with a declaration to confirm the safety check status for your organisation and that you comply with the law. If you also personally provide services to young people, we will ask you to submit evidence you have personally had a safety check.



Children's Worker Safety Checks

Components of a Children's Worker Safety Check

For new children's workers or workers who have not previously been safety checked

- ID Verification
- NZ children's worker police vet (the 'Clean Slate Act' does not apply to offences specified in the Children's Act 2014)
- Professional membership check (registration and annual practising certificate)
- Employment or personal references
- Employment history
- Interview with the applicant
- Risk assessment

For children's workers who have had a previous check in the last three years

- ID Verification
- NZ children's worker police vet (the 'Clean Slate Act' does not apply to offences specified in the Children's Act 2014)
- Professional membership check (registration and annual practising certificate) and
- Risk assessment

Want to know more?

For more information about Children's Workers Safety Checks, you can visit our website acc.co.nz/cwsc.

If you have any questions, you can email cwsc@acc.co.nz.

Who needs to complete the Children's Worker Safety Check form?

The annual declaration needs to be completed by an authorised signatory for your organisation. If this person is also personally a children's worker, they will need a copy of their Children's Worker Safety Check or verification from an employer to confirm their status. That's because you can't safety check yourself.

Key terms and definitions

Term	Definition
A children's/ tamaiti worker	is defined by the Children's Act 2014 as a person who works in, or provides, a regulated service, and the person's work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • may or does involve regular or overnight contact with a child or children (other than with children who are co-workers); and • takes place without a parent or guardian of the child, or of each child, being present.
Regular or overnight contact	means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at least once each week, or • on at least 4 days each month, or • overnight.
Contact	means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contact which is physical, oral communication, whether in person or by telephone, or through any electronic medium, including by way of writing or visual images.

