Northern Territory Police Force

Working with Children Clearance scheme (WWCC)



Strengthening child safety through national information sharing

From 10 November 2026, changes to the Northern Territory Working with Children Clearance scheme support a nationally coordinated approach to worker screening and child safety. The changes introduce the nationally agreed principle of “banned in one, banned in all”.

What does “banned in one, banned in all” mean?

A person who has been prohibited from working with children in one Australian jurisdiction should not be able to go to another jurisdiction and obtain a clearance there.

Working with Children screening agencies across Australia will share relevant refusal or revocation notices and other key screening decisions with each other. This helps agencies identify people who may pose an unacceptable risk to children and consider relevant interstate screening decisions when assessing applications and monitoring existing clearance holders.

What has changed?

From 10 November 2026, SAFE NT may:

- recognise relevant refusal and revocation notices issued by another jurisdiction in Australia
- consider other relevant interstate screening decisions when assessing applications and monitoring existing clearance holders
- share relevant Northern Territory screening information with other jurisdictions.

What has NOT changed?

The introduction of this legislation does not change:

- how you apply for a Northern Territory Working with Children Clearance
- SAFE NT’s role in assessing and managing Northern Territory Working with Children Clearances
- interstate Working with Children Clearances – these continue not to be recognised in the Northern Territory
- the requirement to hold a Northern Territory Working with Children Clearance to work or volunteer with children in the NT, with the appropriate clearance type for paid work or volunteering
- the fees for Working with Children Clearance applications.

If you currently hold a valid NT Working with Children Clearance, you do not need to reapply until you receive a renewal notice.

What does this mean for applicants and clearance holders?

For most people, there is no change to how they apply for or hold a Northern Territory Working with Children Clearance. The Care and Protection of Children Act 2007, allows SAFE NT to access relevant interstate screening information to support decision-making and ongoing monitoring. An application or existing clearance may be reassessed if relevant new information becomes available through national information-sharing arrangements.

What is the national approach?

The national approach supports the principle of “banned in one, banned in all”, helping prevent people who pose an unacceptable risk to children from going interstate to obtain a clearance.
It allows Working with Children screening agencies across Australia to share relevant refusal or revocation notices and key screening decisions with each other.
This supports ongoing monitoring and helps screening agencies identify and consider relevant interstate information when assessing applications and reviewing existing clearances.

What if another state or territory made the decision?

If another state or territory has issued a refusal or revocation notice, SAFE NT may refuse or revoke a Northern Territory Working with Children Clearance.

SAFE NT cannot overturn a decision made by another jurisdiction. Any review or appeal must be pursued with the jurisdiction that made the original decision. The reapplication period in the Northern Territory will be based on the reapplication period that applies to the original decision in that jurisdiction

How is personal information protected?

Only information relevant to Working with Children screening decisions is shared between agencies. Access is limited to authorised personnel, and the information may only be used for screening, decision-making, ongoing monitoring and child safety purposes.

Information is managed in accordance with relevant legislation, privacy protections and information-sharing requirements. It is not shared more broadly or used for unrelated purposes.