Volunteers

Do Schools need to comply?

Yes, if you have volunteers in your school or on school activities.

Conditions of compliance:

Some volunteers require screening including a criminal history check under the requirements of the Children’s Protection Act 1993 (SA). All volunteers should be inducted in regard to school policies and procedures.

If you have to comply, what do you have to do?

Under the Children’s Protection Act you must ensure that volunteers in regular contact with children or working in close proximity to children on a regular basis or having access to children’s records have had a criminal history check before they undertake such voluntary work in your school. Such volunteers would include those engaged in (among other possible roles):

- Any overnight camps/school sleep-overs/billeting;
- Working one to one with other people’s children;
- Acting as coach or manager of teams or groups of children;
- Working in resource centres, offices and canteens;
- Accepting a position on governing/school councils, boards or committees.

In addition all volunteers should receive a site induction as well as being inducted into their expected role. Such induction should include (list not exclusive):

- Their role in Mandatory Notification if appropriate;
- WHS matters;
- Emergency safe operating procedures;
- Behaviour management if they are in contact with students;
- Other local matters – policies and procedures.

What are the consequences if you don’t comply?

There are various consequences for breaching the requirements of the Children’s Protection Act 1993:

- You may be prosecuted and fined if you do not obtain the appropriate criminal history checks.
- You may place your school’s registration in jeopardy if you do not have the appropriate child protection policies and procedures in place and have not conducted the appropriate criminal history checks and training and induction for volunteers undertaking prescribed functions.

See also:

Child Protection

Useful links:

Children’s Protection Act 1993 (SA)
Education and Early Childhood Services Registration and Standards Board of SA