

AUSTRALIAN ALPACA ASSOCIATION LIMITED

WORKING WITH CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE and VULNERABLE PERSONS POLICY - MEMBER OBLIGATIONS

The collective group of children, young people (under 18) and vulnerable people are grouped together in this policy as *persons at risk*.

The Australian Alpaca Association (AAA) is promoting taking active measures to keep *persons at risk* safe from physical, sexual or emotional abuse. Our aim is to be a safe and friendly association with a commitment to creating an organisational culture of looking out for the safety of young and vulnerable people at all of our events.

The AAA takes the safety of people at all events very seriously and therefore the AAA emphasises the importance of timely and correct reporting of all incidents and suspected incidents of physical, sexual or emotional abuse.

Many Australian Youth Education (AYE) events are child-related education programs, some of which may provide overnight accommodation for competitors and organisers. The AAA recognises the need for a proactive approach to check the credentials of volunteers involved in conducting our events, to comply with all relevant legislation and best practice in this area.

In particular, the AAA needs to reduce the risk to as low as reasonably practical levels of high risk persons from being able to influence or commit acts of physical, sexual or emotional abuse.

In order to reduce this risk the AAA has deemed that:

- Events involving *persons at risk* (AYE events and events where AYE participate) are required to follow the relevant state or territory legislation with regards to Statutory checks,
- Where possible, event organisers should avoid the possibility of a *person at risk* being alone with a person over the age of 18,
- The above point should form part of the risk assessment for the event with relevant controls put in place where practical,
- Any possible incident involving a *person at risk* is to be immediately reported to the event convenor, relevant AAA director or AAA president and appropriate authorities.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO AS A VOLUNTEER?

The AAA requires mandatory statutory checks for individuals over 18 years of age involved in AYE events or events that involve AYE, consistent with the relevant legislation in the following capacities:

- Officials/ volunteers who are involved in competitions;
- Competitors and/or participants who are over the age of 18 and travelling overnight and/or staying in overnight accommodation with an AYE event.

Possible Exemptions

A Statutory check potentially may not be required for the following individuals:

- Guests/ spectators (including interstate guests);
- Parents of a participating child/youth;
- Persons volunteering for a nominal number of days each year (consult your state or territory authority for details).

An AYE organising committee member must be delegated to consult the relevant state or territory authority for the current rulings on statutory checks exemptions for compliance prior to accepting any volunteers without a statutory check. This committee member should be identified as responsible for the collection of WWC checks and forward them to the National office on behalf of the event convenor.

Interstate competitions

Unfortunately there is no national framework setting out the requirements for obtaining a Working with Children Check (or Police Checks) and therefore each state and territory has their own procedures and requirements. Refer link.

https://www.nationalcrimecheck.com.au/police-checks-individuals/resources/working_with_children_checks_in_australia

A Statutory check is only valid in the issuing state or territory and is therefore not valid in any other state or territory. AYE Officials, volunteers and adult competitors must ensure that they meet an exemption within a specific category for a statutory check in the destination state and be able to cite the exemption upon request.

Refer to the table below linking to state/territory authority websites for WWC

Working with Children information in your State or Territory

ACT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with vulnerable people check Free/ Valid for three years 	http://www.ors.act.gov.au/ <i>Click here to apply</i>
NSW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with Children Check Blue card Free for volunteers Valid for three years 	http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/ <i>Click here to apply</i>
NT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with Children Clearance Notice Ochre Card Valid for two years 	<i>Northern Territory Working with Children website.</i> <i>Click Here to apply</i>
QLD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with Children Check Blue card Free for volunteers Valid for three years 	http://www.bluecard.qld.gov.au/ <i>Click here to apply</i>
SA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child-related employment screening The fee for a volunteer is \$55.00 GST incl. 	http://www.dcsi.sa.gov.au/services/screening/ <i>Click here to apply</i>
TAS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with Children Check The fee for a volunteer is \$17.76. Valid for three years 	http://www.justice.tas.gov.au/working_with_children <i>Click here to apply</i>
VIC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with Children Check Free for volunteers. 	http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/ <i>Click here</i>
WA	http://www.checkwwc.wa.gov.au/checkwwc

- Working with Children Check
- The fee for a volunteer is \$10.80
- Valid for three years

[Click here](#)

The cost of obtaining a statutory check is to be borne by the AAA Member. The direct cost of the checks for Judges and convenors where applicable, will be reimbursed by the AAA.

All convenors of AYE associated Shows or Events will require clearance declarations from their volunteers before that volunteer may work at that event. Volunteers who cannot produce the relevant WWC check and are not exempt under the relevant legislation cannot be involved in the event.

Copies of WWC certificates are to be sent to the AAA National Office along with the WWC checklist from the event (sample provided at the end of the policy).

POLICY

The Working With Children, Youth and Vulnerable policy is to take affect from 1 January 2018

POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed every three years by the Board. The legislative requirements, costs and links will be checked every 6 months by the National office for currency as detailed on this policy.



Australian Alpaca
ASSOCIATION

Event:

Date:

WWC required:

Exemptions according to legislation:

Name	WWC checked or N/A	Reason for N/A

Convenor signoff: