



What's New with the Blue Card

New laws have recently been introduced about the blue card to strengthen the protections for children and young people.

While the Working with Children Check remains the same, the changes will affect your blue card obligations and those of your paid employees and volunteers engaged in child-related activities.

From **2 June 2008** certain people are disqualified upfront from applying for a blue card. So if your paid employees or volunteers are applying for the first time, or are renewing their card, you are now required to provide applicants with a warning to this effect and sign a declaration on the application form that this warning has been given.

The blue card application forms have been updated and you will need to discard any old application forms. New forms are available on the Commission's website or by calling the Blue Card Contact Centre. Volunteer application forms are processed free of charge. From **1 July 2008**, only applications lodged on the new forms will be accepted.

To assist you in understanding these new laws the Commission has developed an *Obligations for Employers Information Sheet*. Also available to assist you in explaining these new laws to your staff is an *Obligations for Applicants/Cardholders Information Sheet* and frequently asked questions which can be accessed by visiting www.bluecard.qld.gov.au or by calling the Blue Card Contact Centre, Monday to Friday between **8:00am-5:00pm** on **1800 113 611** or **3247 5145**.