

## WORKING WITH CHILDREN – CLUB UPDATE AT DECEMBER 2006

This year the Victorian State Government introduced a new checking system that will affect many adults at clubs who either work or deal with children. The system helps protect children by checking a persons background criminal history for serious sexual, violence or drug related crimes.

It is being progressively introduced and for most club volunteers will not be required until July 2008. (a notable exception is people involved in running overnight camps for whom it is required now ) .

The good news is

- Its free for volunteers (and \$70 for employees)
- It virtually replaces the old police check (though you do still need to do one even if you had a police check)
- Unlike the Police check, once you have approval any new offence will be registered, assessed and advised to the organisations nominated.
- Its is not hard to complete ( the individual fills out the form, which is available at most Post Offices, where it is submitted with proof of identity)

Excluded from the requirements for a check are

- People under 19
- Parents whose children are participating in the activity
- Teachers & Police
- Visitors to Victoria

Full details are at [www.justice.vic.gov.au/workingwithchildren](http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/workingwithchildren) or you can call for more information on 1300 652879. There is a detailed guide on the front of the application form that you can also obtain by calling this number.

A couple of things clubs' officials need to be thinking about are

- Making sure they are aware of the requirement
- Ensuring all their membership and volunteer paperwork includes the member or volunteer agreeing to this check as part of their participation.
- Implementing it now as part of your Club Risk Management plan
- Keeping a record of checks done and numbers provided (maybe use MySailor)

Individuals who have already passed the check will be able to provide you a number and a card. You can check this on line or by calling 1300 652 872.

The use of the Victorian Working with Children check is consistent with Yachting Australia's Membership Protection Policies and is encouraged by Yachting Victoria, prior to the mandatory implementation.



Ross Kilborn CEO

