



VBSLSC Working with Children Check Policy

Any member of Venus Bay Surf Lifesaving Club (VBSLSC) aged 18 years and over, who comes into “direct” contact with person's under 18 years of age in any capacity is required to have a valid Working with Children Check (WWCC) linked to VBSLSC and Life Saving Victoria (LSV).

In 2020 VBSLSC extended the definition of contact to include all nipper parents regardless of their role within the club. This decision has come about because of the likelihood that parents will come into contact with children other than their own, for example assisting with activities, providing transport to training sessions.

“Direct” contact includes oral, written or electronic communications as well as face to face contact. (www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au)

The matrix below illustrates WWCC requirements by membership category for members 18 years and over.

Categories	WWC Check required by LSV/VBSLSC
Nipper Parents	Required
Active Members	Required
Trainers (qualified or unqualified) and camp leaders	Required
Nipper Programs/Carnivals (Officials, Age managers/assistants, team managers, coaches and assistants)	Required
Associate Members	Required if member falls under the definition of direct contact above



Life Members	Required if member falls under the definition of direct contact above
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*The Working with Children Act 2005 provides for exemptions to Police Officers, however, despite their exemption under the act, Life Saving Victoria requires police officers to have a WWCC. This is necessary because there is no link between the professional checks gained by those employees and any volunteer organisation. If any member in their substantive capacity as a Police Officer was to be charged with breach of any laws relevant to this check (e.g. sexual misconduct), VBSLSC and Life Saving Victoria would not be informed of such charges. This policy therefore ensures that LSV and VBSLSC will provide a higher level of risk minimisation for our junior members.

**VIT registered teachers were similarly legislated by Lifesaving Victoria until 2019, there is now a reporting link between VIT and LSV- making VIT registered teachers exempt from WWCC rules. However, proof of registration must be provided to the club and LSV.

Any questions, or for further information regarding this policy please email

memberprotection@vbslsc.org.au

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