Do you work or volunteer with children?

Tasmania recently implemented a Working with Children registration process, bringing us into line with all other Australian States and Territories who already have similar registration processes and ensuring compliance with the recently amended Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013.

If you are a volunteer in a group which may involve coming into contact with children, you may be required to have a Working with Children Registration. Ask your local volunteer coordinator what their policy is.

The aim is to keep our children as safe as possible by reducing the incidence of sexual, physical, psychological, emotional harm or neglect of children in Tasmania.

Some volunteers in child-related work may be exempt from the requirement to obtain a Working with Children Registration. Generally, you may be exempt from registering if your contact with children is for less than 7 days in any calendar year.

This new Registration process will require:

- an application
- proof of identity
- the payment of a fee
- a national criminal history assessment and ongoing monitoring
- a risk assessment

For further information, visit http://www.justice.tas.gov.au/working_with_children

The fee for a volunteer is $17.76 for a three year registration. No GST is applicable. The fee for a Paid Employment Registration is $103.6. This fee must be paid at the time you lodge your application at a Service Tasmania Shop.

The Volunteer Coordinators Network (a collaboration between NRM South, Landcare Tasmania, Parks and Wildlife Service, Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania and various southern Tasmanian councils), are offering to pay the registration fee for all eligible volunteers in Southern Tasmania.

Volunteers will need to complete the registration process themselves and NRM South will reimburse the amount of $17.76 to eligible volunteers. We would prefer to support volunteers in bulk via the group convenor or through the group coordinator (e.g. council NRM officer, PWS, Landcare Tas etc), rather than reimburse amounts to individual volunteers, however all active volunteers are eligible to receive this support.

This offer is only valid for registrations completed with Service Tasmania before December 31st 2016, or until funding has all been allocated.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Ruth Osborne, NRM South Regional Landcare Facilitator; on rosborne@nrmsouth.org.au or 6221 6161.

Applying for a Working with Children Register Card

Step 1.

Gather your information:

- ☐ The full address of every place you have lived over the last five years and dates you lived at these addresses.
- ☐ Details for each organisation you will be doing volunteer child-related work for:
  - o Name of organisation
  - o Street address of organisation
  - o Phone number of organisation
  - o Contact person for that organisation
  - o Start date of when you started with that organisation
  - o Email address of organisation
- ☐ Your place of birth
- ☐ Dates (DD/MM/YYYY) and countries you have lived in other than Australia. This is not limited to the last 5 years, but at any time in your life you have lived overseas.
- ☐ Details of any overseas offences.
- ☐ Details of any:
  - o Family Violence Orders
  - o Restraint Orders
  - o Apprehended Violence Orders
  - o Child Protection Orders (taken out against you)
- ☐ Drivers Licence number and expiry date or alternative form of identification.

Step 2.

Make a cuppa and allow 30 minutes of uninterrupted screen time.

Complete the form online:

http://www.justice.tas.gov.au/working_with_children/application

Step 3.

Write down your Reference Number to take into a Service Tasmania Office.

Step 4.

Visit a Service Tasmania Office.

Take your Reference Number.

Service Tasmania will:

- Check your ID (Drivers Licence or alternative form of identification)
- Charge you the Fee ($17.76)
- Take a photo of you (for your Working with Children Card)

Step 5.

Seek reimbursement of the fee from NRM South (preferably via your group convenor or group coordinator). You will need to provide your bank account details and a copy of your registration form or receipt number.

Step 6.

Wait up to 6 weeks for the Working with Children Card to arrive via snail mail.

Step 7.

Please note that this registration will need to be renewed every 3 years, at your own cost.