



commission for
children and young people
and child guardian

Changes to the blue card system

Information for registered teachers

The Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian (the Commission) is making important changes to the blue card system. The changes will effectively reduce duplication of screening by creating structured exemptions for people who have already been screened, like registered teachers.

When is this happening? 1 July 2010.

What are the key changes for registered teachers that I need to be aware of?

- Registered teachers remain exempt from requiring a blue card or exemption card when providing services as part of their professional duties in a school or boarding school.
- Instead of a blue card, registered teachers should now apply for an exemption card** when providing other regulated child-related services. For example, volunteering at a local children's sporting club or working at an early childcare centre.
- Once an application for an exemption card is received, the Commission will liaise with the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) to confirm the applicant is a registered teacher and whether further employment screening is required.
- An exemption card will be granted unless the person has a criminal history that requires a further assessment of their eligibility.
- The exemption card remains valid while a person remains a registered teacher, unless cancelled or suspended earlier.

If you are a registered teacher working in...

Schools Boarding facilities	→	You do not need to apply for an exemption card.
Other services such as private tutoring, working in a child care centre or volunteering at a sporting club	→	You need to apply for an exemption card.

What are the benefits for registered teachers in applying for an exemption card?

- There is no fee to apply for an exemption card.
- Exemption cards have no expiry date and you do not need to reapply.
- Registered teachers can commence any type of blue card child-related work once they have submitted an application for an exemption card.
- If a registered teacher already holds a current blue card, they can continue to use it until it expires. Once it expires, if they are continuing in blue card child-related work, they should apply for an exemption card.
- If an exemption notice is issued to the registered teacher, a card will be issued to them with their full name, signature and exemption notice number (similar to the details on a blue card).
- An exemption card is transferable so you can use it for all types of child-related work, including volunteering or running your own business.
- As with the blue card, it is the responsibility of the organisation to ensure that a person's exemption notice and card is checked against other identification to certify that it belongs to that person.
- Organisations must also inform the Commission if an existing exemption card holder joins their organisation. This enables the Commission to notify the organisation of any relevant changes to that person's exemption notice status, including changes in their police information.

Where can I get more information?

For details about other changes, please refer to the 'Changes to the blue card system' information sheet on the Commission's website at www.bluecard.qld.gov.au

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