



commission for  
children and young people  
and child guardian

## Media Release

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### New ads on blue card changes

The Commission for Children and Young People has launched a statewide advertising campaign to tell Queenslanders about changes to blue card laws.

The new laws came in earlier this year, and must be complied with by January 2006 or penalties will apply.

The Commission's campaign aims to strengthen awareness among people who volunteer or work with children about whether they need a blue card, and what rules apply.

Commissioner Elizabeth Fraser said volunteers in particular face changes to blue card screening provisions.

"Volunteers in the categories screened should be aware they can't start working with children and young people until they hold a blue card," Ms Fraser said.

"And volunteers now need a blue card no matter how regularly they work with children," she said.

The government has also expanded the categories of work which require blue cards.

Under the *Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000*, the new categories screened include:

- sport and active recreation
- child accommodation services, including Homestays
- religious representatives
- emergency services cadet programs, and
- school crossing supervisors.

The new requirements build on the success of the blue card system, under which the Commission has issued over 428,000 cards since screening began in May 2001.

In addition, businesses and organisations screened under the Act must now have a written risk management strategy in place to foster safe environments for the children and young people in their care.

For more information go to the Commission's website at [www.bluecard.qld.gov.au](http://www.bluecard.qld.gov.au) or call 1800 113 611.

The advertisements will continue to run in newspapers and and radio and TV in the coming weeks.

**For more information call Sam Keegan on 3247 5346**