



commission for
children and young people
and child guardian

Tuesday 9 October 2007

Media release

Call for Schoolies Week volunteers to lodge blue card applications

Volunteers intending to work at Schoolies Week this year have been reminded to get their blue card applications into the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian as soon as possible.

Commissioner Elizabeth Fraser commended those who volunteer to support young people attending schoolies week, but said those who leave lodging their applications much longer may not receive their blue cards in time to take part.

“Those who don’t hold a blue card won’t be allowed to work with young people during the event,” she said. “We screen Schoolies Week volunteers every year, and there’s always a rush to get the applications processed in time.

“We do a lot of work with government and volunteer organisations every year to remind them to get their applications in early, but some always leave it to last minute.”

Volunteers actually need to hold a blue card **before** they can start work with children and young people.

The time it takes to process blue cards varies from person to person, depending on whether they have any charges or convictions on their record, or whether any disciplinary information is held about them by professional bodies.

Applications can take longer to process if the Commission needs to wait for information from external agencies such as Police Services or disciplinary bodies.

Those who fail to get a blue card, but volunteer their services anyway, may face fines and in serious cases, imprisonment.

To contact the Commission about applying for a blue card, call 1800 113 611, or download a Volunteer application form from www.bluecard.qld.gov.au

For more information contact Lisa Connors on 3033 0220