



commission for  
children and young people  
and child guardian

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## **Media Release**

### **Reminder on child safety risk management strategies**

By 1<sup>st</sup> January next year, about 150,000 employers and businesses providing regulated child-related services in Queensland will be required to have a written risk management strategy that complies with legislative changes enacted nearly two years ago.

Commissioner for Children and Young People and Child Guardian, Elizabeth Fraser, said regulatory provisions introduced in May this year specify the elements of a risk management strategy to ensure children and young people are protected from harm.

Ms Fraser said the Commission has supported the introduction of the new provisions with information fact sheets, industry briefings and free workshops.

“While certain service providers are required to ensure their employees and volunteers hold a blue card, this alone can not guarantee the safety of a child in their service environments,” she said.

“Under the legislation, service providers must take reasonable steps to prevent foreseeable harm to children and young people in their care and that’s why these strategies are so important.

“The strategies must be in a written format and must be updated annually.

“They should identify and evaluate potential harm to children in the service environment and detail the procedures to help manage the identified sources of harm in order to create child-safe environments.”

Commissioner Fraser said policies and procedures for maintaining blue card compliance were a vital part of any risk management strategy.

Ms Fraser said employers were required to ask blue card holders for photo identification in addition to their blue card to verify their identity, and must check the expiry date on the blue card.

“This means employers will find out whether a person is attempting to use someone else’s blue card before there is any risk to the children in their care,” she said.

“If an employer is suspicious about a person’s credentials, they can check whether a person has a current blue card by filling in an ‘Authorisation to confirm a valid blue card’ – a document available on the Commission’s website.”

A risk management strategy for child protection must include:

- a policy with a statement of commitment to the safety and wellbeing of children and the protection of children from harm
- a code of conduct for interacting with children and young people
- recruitment, training and management procedures for staff (including appropriate employment screening – i.e. blue cards and registers of staff who hold blue cards
- reporting guidelines and directions for handling disclosures and suspicions of harm
- a policy of managing breaches of the risk management strategy
- policies and procedures for compliance with blue card legislation
- risk management plans for high risk activities and special events, and
- strategies for communication and support for staff.

The maximum penalty for failure to comply with the new regulations on risk management strategies is \$1,500.

For more information on risk management, go to the Commission’s website at [www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au/about/risk\\_management.html](http://www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au/about/risk_management.html) or call the Commission on 1800 113611 or 32475145.

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