



## Media Release



### Do bus driver need a blue card?

5.04.04

The Commission for Children and Young People has issued a clarification about its responsibility for criminal history checks on bus drivers.

Commissioner, Robin Sullivan, says drivers in the categories of employment screened under the Commission's Act – the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 2000* – are required to hold a blue card.

This includes drivers who are employees or volunteers for:

- out of home residential facilities
- school boarding facilities
- schools
- churches, clubs and associations providing services or conducting activities mainly directed towards children
- child counselling and support services
- private teaching, coaching or tutoring
- child care providers
- providers of alternative education programs or flexible arrangements, and

self employed people working in regulated businesses, ie:

- counselling and support services
- private teaching, coaching and tutoring.
- child care
- providers of alternative education programs or flexible arrangements.

The intent of the Act is to screen people not already screened under existing legislation.

Drivers engaged by commercial bus companies do not fall in the categories of child-related employment screened by the Commission, so are not required to apply for a blue card. They obtain authorisation to drive a public passenger vehicle under the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994*.

However, the Commissioner warns that employment screening is only one element of an effective risk management strategy to ensure the safety of children.

“Organisations like bus companies must have their own risk management strategies in place to protect children and young people from harm, including Codes of Conduct and proper supervision of staff working with children,” she said.

“To supplement criminal history checks, the Commission has developed a Working with Children Kit designed to provide guidelines for appropriate policies and procedures for those who work with children and young people.”

The kits can be purchased by calling 3247 5525.

**For more information contact:** Sam Keegan Ph: 07 3247 5346 or Mob: 0412 246 499