

## WORKING WITH VULNERABLE PEOPLE\*

*The Department of Justice provides detailed guides and useful summaries on registering to work with vulnerable people available at:*

<https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/rwvp>

Individuals and organisations have important legal obligations when working or volunteering with vulnerable people under Tasmanian law. You may be required by law to apply and receive a Registration to Work with Vulnerable People ('RWVP').

Complying with RWVP requirements is important because it is a criminal offence not to. Both yourself and your organisation can be liable.

Even if you or your organisation do not have a legal obligation you should seriously consider following the RWVP requirements. Being proactive with RWVP can:

- Reduce your organisation's risks
- Help fulfill your duties as a committee member to act in the best interests of your organisation
- Send a positive signal to the community.

### WHAT IS 'RWVP'

RWVP (sometimes referred to as working with vulnerable people or WWVP) is a scheme to help keep vulnerable people safe. If you hold a RWVP it means that you are considered a suitable person to work or volunteer with vulnerable people.

Vulnerable people means children but also adults who have a disability.

Applying for a RWVP involves a background check, risk assessment and ongoing monitoring to make sure people who work or volunteer with vulnerable people are suitable. You will need to provide documents (such as a drivers licence) to prove your identity.

### DO I NEED TO APPLY FOR RWVP?

You need a RWVP if you:

- Work or volunteer in a regulated activity, and
- You are likely to have contact with children.

Regulated activities are activities that involve working or volunteering with vulnerable people. They include but are not limited to:

- Cultural, recreational and sporting activities primarily for children provided by a club or association
- Coaching or tutoring children.

You do not need a RWVP if you work in a regulated activity but only have incidental contact with children. That is, if contact with children is not the main purpose of your activity.

You also do not need an RWVP if you:

- are under 16 years of age
- are taking part in the same activity - such as playing together in a sports team
- are a close relative of each child taking part in the activity.

*Practical tip: there is an online tool to help figure out if you need to apply:*

<https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/rwvp/apply/do-you-need-a-rwvp/registration-decision-tool/start>

## WWVP OBLIGATIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS

If you are required to hold a RWVP then you must apply for and receive it. You must ensure the details of your RWVP are correct, up to date and tell the Department of Justice of any changes.

There are different types of RWVP for workers and volunteers. You need to make sure you apply for the right type of RWVP. They are not interchangeable.

## WWVP OBLIGATIONS FOR NFPS

NFPs must make sure that workers or volunteers have a RWVP if they need it. This includes making sure that:

- Your workers or volunteers have an up to date RWVP
- Your organisation is listed on their RWVP
- You notify the Department of Justice of changes.

If a person with a RWVP acts in a way that poses a risk of harm to vulnerable people, your organisation needs to report this.