

## Submissions regarding Issues Paper 1

1. A national WWCC would bring in extra unity to cover the whole country.
2. One of the features of such a WWCC should be to allow flexibility for local variations in some matters.
3. If there is no national scheme, minimum requirements should be imposed on each state and territory, i.e. to have such process in place and approved by a national body.
4. Clearance should normally be granted for the duration of the event or purpose for which it is sought. If the event in question endures for 18 months or more, clearance should be renewed every 18 months.
5. Persons should not be allowed to commence work before all checks have been completed.
6. Child-related work is work that involves any contact with a person under the age of 18 years.
7. A child-related sector is an area that involves direct contact with persons under the age of 18 years. The roles involved can be defined as *adult carer* and *charge*. (N.B. I must admit to not being sure what you mean or envisage by *sector* and *roles*.)
8. WWCCs should apply also to persons who are a. parent volunteers, b. living in the homes of children in out-of-home care.
9. All records of the persons, including those of the person as a juvenile should be included in the checks.
10. An appeal process needs to be in place so that potential carers and the institution can be assured of fairness. It could operate by including written and 'interview' components to help assessors - who ideally would not be original ones.
11. Current records that contain information causing the automatic barring of persons need to be available to the applicant. Should an authority or institution require access to this information, this should only be given with the consent of the applicant - preferably written.

12. A body needs to be set up in every case to assess WWCC applications.

13. The WWCC should never minimise the need for institutions to establish clear processes for responding to inappropriate behaviour of staff in child-related positions.

14. The effectiveness of any existing or proposed WWCC should be evaluated and monitored by an independent senior body of wise and prudent persons - preferably equally female and male in composition. This body would have responsibility for overseeing a number of institutions, according to necessity. Quality and rigor should not be compromised in this system.

*Dr G C J Lomas*