

Please find below text for your websites, newsletters or bulletins that you may wish to use to communicate these changes to your employees or volunteers.

Important changes to the blue card system

What is happening?

The Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian is making important improvements to the blue card system following recent changes to the Commission's Act which includes a change in blue card requirements for police officers.

Following consultation with the Queensland Police Service, the Commission is implementing changes on 1 July 2010, which includes the introduction of an exemption for police officers who carry out child-related work in addition to their professional duties as a police officer.

When is this happening?

From 1 July 2010,

- Police officers still do not require a blue card to carry out their work as a police officer.
- For other child-related work, where a blue card would previously have been required, police officers should now apply to the Commission for an exemption card.
- There is no fee to apply for an exemption card and it remains valid as long as the person is a police officer, there is no need to reapply.
- The Commission will still assess a person's eligibility to work with children and if a positive exemption notice is issued, they will continue to monitor the person's eligibility to work with children.

What do I need to do?

If a police officer already has a current blue card, they can continue to use it until it's expiry. Once it expires, they apply to the Commission for an exemption card.

Please visit the Commission's website at www.bluecard.qld.gov.au and read the Changes to the blue card system – information for police officers fact sheet. You can also access updates, information sheets and new application forms online.

Where can I get further information?

If you have further questions, please email bluecard@ccypcg.qld.gov.au or, if you would like to speak with a Commission officer, call the blue card contact centre on **07 3211 6999** or **1800 113 611** (free call).