

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 registered teachers.

Following consultation with the Queensland College of Teachers, the Commission is introducing an exemption for registered teachers who carry out child-related work in addition to their professional duties in a school, boarding facility or in education programs outside of schools (such as programs for students who have been excluded or suspended).

When is this happening?

From 1 July 2010,

- Registered teachers still do not require a blue card to carry out their work as a teacher in a school or boarding facility.
- For other child-related work, where a blue card would previously have been required (such as volunteering at a sporting club or employment in a child care centre), registered teachers 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 registered teacher, unless cancelled earlier, and there is no need to reapply.
- The Commission will still assess a person's eligibility to work with children and if a positive exemption card is issued, they will continue to monitor the person's eligibility to work with children.
- An exemption card is transferrable so you can use it for all types of child-related work including volunteering or running your own business.

What do I need to do?

If a registered teacher already has a current blue card, they can continue to use it until its expiry. Once it expires, they should 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 registered teachers fact sheet. You can also access updates, information sheets and new application forms online. 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).