



## Students aged 18 years attending school

This fact sheet provides information regarding when a blue card is required for students aged 18 years completing year 12 schooling under the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000* (the Act).

The purpose of the blue card system is to contribute to the creation of safe and supportive environments for children and young people. The Blue Card System does not apply to every environment where a child may be present and an organisation cannot have a policy requiring employees / volunteers to hold a blue card if they do not need one. This fact sheet provides some guidance around when a blue card is required for students who are 18 years of age, attending a school and are working or volunteering in a school environment.

### Who needs a blue card?

#### Students who are under 18 years

You will need a blue card if:

- you are paid for your work
- you are a student enrolled in a tertiary course (including certificate courses conducted through the school as part of a student's studies, TAFE and university courses) and need to do a practical placement
- you volunteer in child regulated work after you turn 18. We can accept your application 6 months before you turn 18. If it is approved, your card will be issued on your 18th birthday.

You don't need a blue card:

- If you are a **volunteer under 18 years** doing child regulated work.

A **restricted person** cannot rely on this 'volunteer under 18 years' exemption.

A **restricted person** is a person who:

- has been issued with a negative notice
- has a suspended blue card
- is a disqualified person
- has been charged with a disqualifying offence that has not been finalised.

#### Students who are over 18 years

If you are a student aged over 18 years and are engaged in child regulated work as a **paid employee** or **volunteer**, you will need a blue card. The table on the next page has some common scenarios where blue cards may be required.



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## How do I apply for a blue card?

Information on how to apply for a blue card is available on the Blue Card Services website at [www.qld.gov.au/bluecard](http://www.qld.gov.au/bluecard). Under the No Card, No Start laws, **you cannot start working or volunteering with children until you have a valid blue card or exemption card issued.**

## What if I already have a blue card?

1. Show your blue card to the organisation you are working with.
2. The organisation will validate your card using the [Validate card](#) tool on the Blue Card Services website
3. The organisation will confirm if you have the correct type of blue card for the work you are doing. If you have had a blue card for volunteering but are beginning paid work, you will need to submit a [Volunteer to paid employment transfer](#) form.

Once validated, the organisation will notify Blue Card Services by using the online [Organisation Portal](#) or submitting a [Link a person to your organisation](#) form to Blue Card Services. This ensures the organisation you are working or volunteering with will be notified in case your blue card is cancelled or suspended.

## Examples

Scenarios
<p><b>Work experience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I am a year 12 student <u>aged 18 years</u> of age undertaking volunteer work experience with a grade 2 primary school class, as part of my schooling assessment. Do I require a blue card?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>No, a blue card is not required.</b></li></ul></li><li>• I am a student <u>under the age of 18 years</u> undertaking paid work experience in an outside school hours care service. Do I require a blue card?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Yes, a blue card is required.</b></li></ul></li><li>• I am student <u>under the age of 18 years</u> of age undertaking volunteer work experience at my school's child care centre. Do I require a blue card?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>No, a blue card is not required.</b></li></ul></li></ul>
<p><b>School based apprenticeship and traineeship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I am a student undertaking a school-based apprenticeship and traineeship. I am <u>under 18 years of age</u> and undertaking a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care. Do I require a blue card?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Yes</b>, a blue card is required regardless of your age.</li></ul></li><li>• I am <u>under 18 years of age</u> undertaking an apprenticeship in plumbing. The company I work for has contracts with several Outside School Hours Care facilities. Do I require a blue card?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Yes</b>, a blue card is required.</li></ul></li><li>• I am a student <u>aged 18 years</u> and completing an Outdoor Education course which requires me to partake in a community volunteer service as part of the program. When would I need a blue card?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ A person will require a blue card when they are engaged in child-related work that is regulated by the Act. To confirm if the work you will be doing is child-regulated, you should speak with the person who looks after blue cards in the organisation you are undertaking your volunteer work with.</li></ul></li></ul>

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## Scenarios

### Sports referee

I am a student under 18 years of age and volunteer at my school doing refereeing with different sporting teams. I am not paid, however, I receive money for petrol.

- Do I need a blue card for refereeing?
  - **No**, a blue card is not required.
- Do I need a paid blue card as I receive money?
  - **No**, a paid blue card is not required as you are receiving payment that is a reimbursement for out of pocket expenses.

I am a student aged 18 years of age and volunteer at my school doing refereeing with different sporting teams. I am not paid, however, I receive money for petrol.

- Do I need a blue card for refereeing?
  - **Yes**, a blue card is required.
- Do I need a paid blue card as I receive money?
  - **No**, a paid blue card is not required as you are receiving payment that is a reimbursement for out of pocket expenses only.

I am a student aged 18 years and volunteer at Regional and State level competitions, such as Queensland School Sport / Regional Sport and District sports trials and carnivals. I referee games played by school students. The majority of these students are under the age of 18 years. Do I need a blue card?

- Do I need a blue card for refereeing?

**Yes**, a blue card is required.

### Volunteer coach for the school sports team

- I am a year 12 student aged 18 years and I am volunteering as the year 11 volleyball team coach. This is done in my lunch break in my capacity as a student at the school. Do I require a blue card?
  - **No**, a blue is not required.
- I am a year 12 student aged 18 years and I have taken on the position of year 10 soccer team coach which was advertised through the school. It is done outside of school hours and on weekends. I am not acting in my capacity as a student. Do I need a blue card?
  - **Yes**, a blue card is required.

### Drama/events

- I am a year 12 student aged 18 years and I teach drama after school and on weekends. I am paid to teach children from the school. Do I require a blue card?
  - **Yes**, a paid blue card is required.
- My school enters eisteddfods. I am a year 12 student aged 18 years and I am being paid to teach the grade 4 students how to dance and sing. Do I require a blue card?
  - **Yes**, a paid blue card is required.
- My school enters eisteddfods. I am a year 12 student aged 18 years and volunteer my time (not in my capacity as a student), teaching the grade 4 students how to dance and sing. Do I require a blue card?
  - **Yes**, a blue card is required.
- I am a year 12 student aged 18 years and performing in the school musical production. The school musical is part of my role as a student at the school. I have been asked to help teach junior students their dance steps as part of the musical scene we are performing in. Do I need a blue card?
  - **No**, a blue card is not required. You are assisting other students in your capacity as a student and therefore are not employed to work by the school.

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## Scenarios

### Tutoring/mentoring

- I am a year 12 student aged 18 years and I tutor year 11 students as part of a mentoring program at the school. It is part of my role as a student. Do I require a blue card?
  - **No**, a blue card is not required.
- I am a student under 18 years of age and I will be volunteer tutoring my friend's brother. Do I require a blue card?
  - **No**, a blue card is not required.
- I am a year 12 student aged 18 years and I tutor year 11 students in the school library as part of my own personal business. Do I require a blue card?
  - **Yes**, a paid blue card is required.

### Boarding school

- I am a boarding student aged 18 years of age. I receive an allowance to be a Dorm Monitor. This is in addition to my role as a senior student. Do I require a blue card?
  - **Yes**, a blue card is required.
- I am a boarding student aged 18 years of age. Part of my role as a senior student is to mentor the younger students attending the boarding school. It is part of every senior student's role regardless of age. Do I require a blue card?
  - **No**, a blue card is not required.
- I am a boarding student under 18 years of age and I will be getting paid to assist in the tuckshop twice a week. Do I require a blue card?
  - **Yes**, a paid blue card is required.

### Disqualifying offences

- I am under 18 years of age and would like to volunteer at my local football club. I have been charged with a disqualifying offence. Am I able to volunteer?
  - **No**, until the matter has been finalised you are not able to volunteer.

If you are not sure whether you have been charged with a disqualifying offence, visit our website or give us a call.

### Student council member (not a P&C committee)

- I am a student on the school council. I turned 18 whilst being a member on the council. Do I require a blue card?
  - **No**, a blue card is not required.
- I am under 18 years of age and a member on the council. Do I require a blue card?
  - **No**, a blue card is not required.

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## Scenarios

### Vocational Education and Training (VET) students

- I am a student completing a Certificate III in Fitness course as part of my school studies. Part of my assessment requires me to demonstrate how to do a push-up and sit-up to another person. I would normally go to the local gym to do this, however, due to COVID-19, I am doing it at school and using my school peers. Do I need a blue card?
  - **No**, a blue card is not required.
- I am a student completing a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care course as part of my school studies. I am required to complete a 120-hour placement in a child care centre. I don't get paid for this, it is part of my course. Do I need a blue card?
  - **Yes**, a blue card is required.
- I am a student completing a commercial cookery course as part of my school studies. I am required to complete a practical assessment which includes cooking a 3-course meal and serving it to members of the public. Due to COVID-19, I am unable to do this in a commercial restaurant and will now do the assessment using the school cooking kitchen and serve the 3-course meal to my student peers. Do I need a blue card?
  - **No**, a blue card is not required.

### Turning 18 years of age

- I am in year 12 and I am turning 18 at the beginning of my grade 12 year. I volunteer at my local church and teach Sunday school to children. Do I need a blue card when teaching Sunday school when I turn 18?
  - **Yes**, a blue card is required.
- I am in year 12 and I am turning 18 at the beginning of my grade 12 year. I volunteer at Army Cadets. Do I need a blue card for Army Cadets when I turn 18?
  - **Yes**, a blue card is required.

If you will continue your volunteer work after you turn 18, you will need to apply for a blue card. We can accept your application 3 months before you turn 18. If it is approved, your card will be issued on your 18th birthday.

## Need more information?



Please call us on **1800 113 611** or **07 3211 6999** between **8am–5pm** on **Monday to Friday** or visit [www.qld.gov.au/bluecard](http://www.qld.gov.au/bluecard). If you need an interpreter, contact **Language Loop** on 1800 512 451.