

4.5 Witnessing blue card applications

What is the purpose of blue cards?

The purpose of the blue card system is to contribute towards creating safe and supportive environments for children and young people when receiving services and participating in activities that are essential to their development and wellbeing, such as child care, education, sport and cultural activities.

Blue cards are issued under the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000*. A JP (Qual) is a 'prescribed person' under the Act.

Why would someone apply for a blue card?

People who provide services directed mainly at children and young people are required to hold a blue card. If a person works as a paid employee or volunteer with children and young people in any of the following areas, they may require a blue card:

- school boarding houses
- schools (other than teachers and parents)
- child care
- disability services workers
- churches, clubs and associations involving children
- private teaching and coaching
- education programs conducted outside of normal school hours
- student nurses and doctors
- sporting officiators.

A person's employer may require them to obtain a blue card prior to taking up employment in a particular organisation.

How do I witness an application?

The same general procedure to witnessing documents applies. While it is part of your normal duties to sight proof of identity documents at the time of witnessing, this legislation requires you to declare on the application form that you have complied with this requirement.

You should also make a note in your logbook.

Where can I get more information?

Blue card services

www.bluecard.qld.gov.au

