



Attorney-General

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Ms Anne Hywood
General Secretary
Anglican Church of Australia
General Synod
Suite 4, Level 5, 189 Kent Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Our ref: CD/17/648276

Dear Ms Hywood

I refer to your letter of 21 September 2017 to the Premier, the Hon Daniel Andrews MP, regarding the Working with Children Check (WWC Check). Your letter to the Premier was referred to me as the issues raised fall within my portfolio responsibilities.

As you may be aware, the purpose of the WWC Check is to assist in protecting children from sexual or physical harm by ensuring that people who work with, or care for, children are subject to a screening process. In this way, the WWC Check seeks to provide some reassurance to parents and carers when they entrust the care of their children to others.

Under the *Working with Children Act 2005* (Vic), persons aged under 18 years are exempted from the requirements of the WWC Check. This is because it is often difficult to distinguish between when a child is participating with other children and when he or she is working.

Further to this, the Royal Commission into Institutional Response to Child Sexual Abuse (the Royal Commission) has recommended that all children should be exempted from a WWC Check, regardless of their employment status.

As the WWC Check is only a minimum requirement for people engaged in child-related work, organisations are not prevented from requiring persons aged under 18 years who work with other children to obtain a WWC Check. This allows organisations to require those who are exempt from the WWC Check to apply, based on their own assessment of risk.

I hope this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

THE HON MARTIN PAKULA MP
Attorney-General