

National Child Safety Reforms Online Information Session FAQs

National child Safety training

How long will the mandatory national child safety training and child protection training take to complete?

Mandatory national child safety training and child protection training will come into effect on 27 February 2026.

Child safety training is expected to take about two hours, child protection training should take about one hour.

To access child safety training visit the [Geccko registration page](#) and follow the prompts to create your account. If you already have your own Geccko account, log in and update your details. If you use a shared Geccko account, you must [re-register](#) using a personal email address.

To access child protection training 'Keeping Children and Young People Safe' visit [Training to respond to child abuse and neglect - ACT Government](#).

Check the [ACECQA](#) website further updates will be available soon.

Will there be any financial supports available for providers to aide completion of the national child safety training?

The training is free.

The professional development subsidy will soon be available to support staff to complete [mandatory national child safety training](#). The subsidy will prioritise small to medium providers.

For more details about the professional development subsidy visit: [Professional development subsidy - Department of Education, Australian Government](#)

The Australian Government has also made arrangements allowing services to close early for child safety training and continue to claim CCS. Further details can be found here [Service closures for mandatory child safety training - Department of Education, Australian Government](#)

How long after a new employee commences, must the national child safety mandatory training be completed?

The child safety training and child protection training must be completed by 27 August 2026. Details of further advance child safety training will be available soon. Child safety training and child protection training must be refreshed every two years. More guidance will be provided once the changes take place.

For more information <https://www.education.gov.au/early-childhood/about/quality-and-safety/mandatory-national-child-safety-training>

Device restrictions

Do device restrictions apply to visitors, parents' and other people who enter the service?

Restrictions on having an electronic device on your person apply to all nominated supervisors, staff and volunteers in centre based services, who are working directly with children.

The national regulations also require services to have policies and procedures for child safe environments, digital technologies and online environments. These policies and procedures should consider restrictions on the use of devices for parents, allied health workers and other visitors, which consider children's privacy, safety, rights and best interests.

Are smartwatches, fitbits, and smartglasses covered under personal devices? What type of devices should be limited?

A 'personal device' includes any type of device which can capture an image (for example, phones, some smart watches, smartglasses and cameras) or devices which can store or transmit an image (for example, USB drives).

Providers and nominated supervisors must take every reasonable precaution to ensure that staff and volunteers (including students), do not have personal devices on their person other than in prescribed circumstances, and do not use devices other than service authorised or service-supplied devices to capture, store, or transmit images of children.

What if a staff member needs their personal device and requires an exemption?

In limited circumstances, such as during, personal devices are permitted to be used.

Additionally, the approved provider can authorise the use of a personal device for certain necessary purposes, including disability or health needs, work health and safety, or communication with a family member (eg if someone is a sole carer for an unwell relative). The provider must keep a record of these authorisations.

Despite these exceptions, personal devices must not be used to capture, store or transmit images of children.

In an emergency, would we still be required to have prior authorisation for device use?

There is an exception if it is not practicable to obtain authorisation and it meets a reasonable person test.

Records should be kept, in exceptional circumstances when a personal device is used at a service after an emergency event.

WWVP registrations

Can an educator start work while awaiting their valid WWVP card with proof of receipt?

No, from 27 February 2026 all individuals working in the ACT must hold a valid Working with Children Check (WWCC)/Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) clearance before starting work in a service.

What other child safety screening recruitment practices should providers be followed?

Providers should review their existing child safe recruitment policies and processes to ensure they:

- Require all staff, students and volunteers to hold a current cleared WWVP **before they start in their role**.
- Verify past employment, qualifications and referee checks.
- Enhance monitoring and accountability, by proactively notifying Access Canberra of staff lists and corresponding WWVP registrations on a quarterly basis at: wwvp@act.gov.au
- Consider the [National Quality Framework Child Safe Culture Guide](#) and accompanying tools.

Any child safe recruitment policies and procedures should be clearly communicated to staff and effectively implemented across organisations.

For more information about building a child safe culture, including advice for child safe recruitment visit:

- [NQF Child Safe Culture Guide | ACECQA](#)
- [NQF Child Safe Culture Guide self-assessment and risk assessment](#)
- [ACT Child Safe Standards Scheme - HRC](#)
- [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations | National Office for Child Safety](#)
- [Obligations of early childhood education and care providers - ACT Government](#)

Look out for further guidance on child safe recruitment practices coming soon on the [ACECQA website](#).

How long does it take to get a valid WWVP registration?

The Access Canberra website has an updated estimated average processing time under [how long does it take to get an WWVP registration](#).

However, processing times may differ and change depending on several factors. How long it takes depends on:

- the types of checks you need
- if the details you've given are correct
- if your application is missing information.

If your application needs a risk assessment, it can take more than 60 working days. This is because:

- WWVP may have to wait for information from other organisations, states or territories
- there may be pending legal considerations.

Can I use a valid Working with Children, Check or equivalent from another state or territory in ACT or do I need an ACT one?

If you have a valid Working with Children, Check or equivalent from another state or territory AND you're not working or volunteering for more than 28 days in any 12-month period you do not require a valid WWVP. For more information visit: [Working With Vulnerable People scheme - Access Canberra](#)

How do I keep my work details updated with WWVP?

You should update your employer details with WWVP.

Email WWVP@act.gov.au with:

- your new employer or company name
- your role
- your employer's contact name, email and phone number.

You should report any changes to personal details (address, contact info), employer to ensure your registration remains valid and you receive renewal reminders.

To learn more visit: [Apply for or renew a WWVP registration - Access Canberra](#)

You must advise your provider/manager immediately of any changes to your WWVP registration such as; expiry, conditions or cancelation.

How can I check as an employer if the WWVP registration of a staff member is valid?

Employers can confirm a WWVP registration is valid by emailing WWVP@act.gov.au.

You'll need to provide the registration holder's:

- full name
- date of birth
- WWVP registration number.

For more information visit: [WWVP compliance and reporting - Access Canberra](#) and [Obligations of early childhood education and care providers - ACT Government](#)

Do all people who come into contact with children such as a volunteers and parents required a valid WWVP registration?

Access Canberra have information about individuals who do not need a valid WWVP card.

For example, a person who is not working or volunteering for more than 3 days in a 4-week period or 7 days in a 12-month period.

For more information visit: [Working With Vulnerable People scheme - Access Canberra](#)

National Early Childhood Workforce Register (Register)

Will the register mean hard copies of educator documents will no longer need to be stored at service level?

Approved providers must keep full staff records as required by the [National Law and National Regulations](#).

Details can be kept as physical or digital records. The Register does not replace existing requirements.



For more information and FAQs about the Register visit: [Early Childhood Worker Register | ACECQA](#)