



Government of South Australia

Department for Families
and Communities

Families SA

Child Safe Environments and Criminal History Checks

Child Protection
Directorate, Families SA

February 2007



Changes to the *Children's Protection Act 1993 (SA)*

- Passed in Parliament on 1 December 2005
 - Assented to on 8 December 2005
- First stage of amendments proclaimed 1 February 2006
 - Sections relating to Child Safe Environments, Criminal History Checks and Mandatory Reporting were proclaimed 31 December 2006



Objects of the Act

- Old Act
 - Based on child safety and the role of Families SA/Minister in ensuring the safety and protection of children who have been abused and neglected
- Amended Act
 - Based on the holistic care and protection of all children, and a legislation for all the community (with specific roles for Families SA in specific situations)



Objects of the Act

- To:
 - Ensure that all children are safe from harm
 - Assist children to reach their full potential
 - Promote caring attitudes towards children
 - Recognise the family as a primary means to care for children



Criminal History Checks (s.8B)

- For any person (includes employees, volunteers, agents, subcontractors and contractors) who has:
 - Regular contact/regularly working in close proximity to children
 - Supervision of such a person
 - Access to children's records
- These provisions apply to both new and existing staff in prescribed positions
- Applies to government organisations and non-government schools



Obligations of Organisations (s.8C)

- As soon as practicable following the prescribed date, organisations must:
 - Establish policies and procedures for reporting abuse and neglect, and
 - Establish and maintain child safe environments
- Children participate in many environments and that they must be cared for in all of these environments
 - Where organisations provide services wholly or partly for children
- Different for every organisation



Mandatory Notification (s.11)

- Changes to the Act extend to:
 - Ministers of Religion (excluding confessionals)
 - All employees and volunteers of religious and spiritual organisations
 - Employees and volunteers working with children in sporting and recreational organisations.



Further Information

- Website www.families.sa.gov.au
 – Link Child Safe Environments
- Email childsafedfc@dfc.sa.gov.au

