

HOSPITALS, POLICE CLEARANCES FOR EMPLOYEES WHO COME IN CONTACT WITH CHILDREN

1676. Dr Constable to the Minister for Health

- (1) Are police clearances required for employees who come in contact with children in public hospitals in Western Australia?
- (2) If yes, when were these police clearances introduced?
- (3) If yes, which employees at which Government institutions are required to have these clearances?
- (4) Are volunteers who come into contact with children in public hospitals in Western Australia required to have a police clearance before they can provide voluntary services involving children?

Mr KUCERA replied:

1. Currently an Australia-wide police check is required for all prospective employees, independent contractors, private agency staff, students on placement, and any person engaged in any other capacity who works for or provides services to the Department of Health.
2. The Criminal Record Screening Policy was endorsed and implemented on 1 March 1998. The policy was initially developed for those prospective employees employed in the corporate office of the Department of Health who had direct access to patients. The policy was introduced on a progressive basis and became fully implemented on 1 November 1998 across the Department of Health.
3. Australia-wide police checks are required for all prospective employees, independent contractors, private agency staff, students on placement, and any person engaged in any other capacity who will work or provide services to the Department of Health, including all public hospitals.
4. Since implementation of the policy any prospective volunteer to provide services to the Department of Health including any public hospital is required to undergo an Australia-wide police check.