

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, POLICE BACKGROUND CHECKS ON THOSE LOOKING AFTER
CHILDREN

223. Dr E. Constable to the Minister for Health

- (1) Does the Department of Health require police background checks on all health professionals working in hospitals and other health service establishments that look after children?
- (2) If yes, which professional areas are subjected to these police checks?
- (3) In which year did clearance checks commence for health professionals?
- (4) Each year since the year of commencement of police checks on health professionals, how many applicants were refused positions as a result of those police checks?
- (5) Are other staff working in hospitals and other health service establishments required to undergo police checks before they are employed?
- (6) If yes to (5) which other staff are subjected to these police checks?
- (7) In which year did clearance checks commence for staff referred to in (5)?
- (8) How many applicants for positions referred to in (5) have been refused positions as a result of police checks?
- (9) Has the Department of Health conducted police checks on employees referred to in (1) and (5) who commenced their employment before the introduction of police checks?

Mr R.C. 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 will work or provide services to the Department of Health.
2. All health professionals.
3. 1998
4. Nil
5. Yes
6. See (1)
7. 1998
8. 2
9. No