

POLICY	Governance
TITLE:	Working With Children Check National Statement of Intent
AREA:	National Policy Framework
RESPONSIBILITY:	National Integrity Manager
DRAFTED BY:	National Integrity Manager
DATE APPROVED:	3 December 2022
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APPROVED BY:	Paddle Australia
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1. Definitions and Interpretation

1.1. Definitions

In this Policy, capitalised terms used without definition have the meanings assigned to them in the PA Constitution and the following words have the corresponding meaning:

Child-Related Position has the meaning given to it in the PA Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy.

Child Safeguarding Policy means the [PA Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy](#) and includes any changes or addendums made from time to time.

PA means Paddle Australia Limited (ABN 61 189 833 125).

WWCC has the meaning given to it in the PA Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy.

1.2. Interpretation

This document supplements and is to be read in conjunction with PA's Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy. For the avoidance of doubt, it does not affect the obligation on Relevant Organisations (as defined) under that Policy, to meet the requirements of the relevant State or Territory WWCC laws.

2. Purpose and Scope

2.1. This Working With Children National Statement of Intent reflects the commitment to promoting child safety within the sport and recreation of paddling. This commitment is held by the boards, management and staff of Paddle Australia and the six State Paddle Associations.

2.2. This National Statement of Intent seeks to create national alignment in relation to requirements surrounding WWCCs within the sport of paddling.

2.3. The scope of this National Statement of Intent includes the employee and volunteer bases across Paddle Australia, State Paddle Associations and Affiliated Clubs.

3. Working with Children Check National Statement of Intent

3.1. To provide leadership and further strengthen the safeguarding of children involved in the sport of paddling, PA adopts this National Statement of Intent in relation to WWCC.

3.2. PA recognises that WWCCs are an important screening tool intended to prevent people from having access to children if records indicate that they may pose an unacceptable risk to children.

3.3. PA seeks to create national alignment in relation to WWCC within the sport of paddling to overcome the non-alignment between the applicable laws in each State and Territory. There are no nationally uniform laws governing the requirement to obtain a WWCC or exemptions from any such requirement.

- 3.4. PA's ambition is for **all** adults (aged 18 or over) involved at any level in the sport of paddling, in a Child-Related Position (as defined in the [PA Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy](#)), to hold a valid WWCC, provided they are eligible to apply for one under the laws of the State in which they are employed or registered as a member or are otherwise predominantly involved in the sport of paddling.
- 3.5. Including "all adults" will expand the categories of individuals requiring a WWCC as, at times, this will surpass state-based exemptions. PA strongly encourages State Paddle Associations, Affiliated Clubs and Members to give effect to clause 3.4 through integration into relevant processes, including for coaches and officials, recruitment and onboarding for staff and committee members, and agreements and waivers for volunteers.