



# CAMP HILL STATE INFANTS AND PRIMARY SCHOOL

## BLUE CARD INFORMATION FOR VOLUNTEERS

Please read the Important Information

Volunteers play an important role at our school. Those volunteers who rely on an exemption to work with kids without a blue card need to be aware of important laws. Find out more at [www.qld.gov.au/bluecardindividuals](http://www.qld.gov.au/bluecardindividuals). Working together to keep kids safe #bluecardqld

The school has a responsibility to ensure that all people working, anyone beginning to work or volunteer with children, including those in 'restricted employment' are not a 'restricted person'. The school must also ensure anyone beginning to work or volunteer in 'restricted employment' is not a 'restricted person' **before** that person begins working or volunteering with children within the school.

It is an offence for the school to employ or continue to employ a 'restricted person' in 'restricted employment' if they know (or should reasonably know) that they are a restricted person. The maximum penalty is \$30,960 or 2 years in prison.

It is an offence for a 'restricted person' to start or continue in 'restricted employment'. The maximum penalty is \$77,400 or 5 years in prison. If you become a 'restricted person' while volunteering in 'restricted employment', you must immediately stop volunteering with the school or you will be committing an offence and can be prosecuted. You do not need to tell the school the reason why you are no longer able to volunteer.

A **restricted person** is a person who:

- has been issued a negative notice, or
- has a suspended blue card, or
- is a disqualified person, or
- has been charged with a disqualifying offence which has not been finalised, or
- is the subject of an adverse interstate Working with Children check decision that is in effect.

**Restricted employment** – In some organisations, exemptions can be used to allow a person to work with children without a blue card. Restricted employment that would otherwise be exempt from the blue card requirements. Accordingly, a restricted person cannot work with children, even if they are:

- a parent volunteering;
- a volunteer who is under 18;
- paid or unpaid staff who work in regulated child-related employment for not more than 7 days in a calendar year;
- a person with disability who is employed at a place where the person also receives disability services or NDIS supports or services; and
- a secondary school student on work experience who carries out disability related work under the direct supervision of a person who holds a blue or exemption card.

If you are not sure if you are a restricted person or if you are volunteering or working in restricted employment, you can contact Blue Card Services on 1800 113 611 or visit their website at [www.qld.gov.au/bluecard](http://www.qld.gov.au/bluecard) for more information.

### Examples of situations where the restricted person and restricted employment laws apply

**Scenario:** I was convicted of a disqualifying offence in 1990 and am now a parent of a child who attends a primary school. I want to volunteer at the school where my child attends doing school reading and tuckshop. Can I rely on the volunteer parent exemption to attend the school where my child attends and volunteer with school reading and tuckshop?

**Answer:** No. You are considered a restricted person as you have been convicted of a disqualifying offence. Restricted employment includes working in a school as a volunteer parent.

**Scenario:** I am a blue card holder and have had my blue card suspended. I volunteer at my child's outside school hours care one day a week doing odd jobs and helping out with the kids. Can I still rely on the volunteer parent exemption?

**Answer:** No. You have had your blue card suspended and therefore are considered a restricted person. You cannot rely on the volunteer parent exemption to work at your child's outside school hours care service.

**Scenario:** My child plays under 8's at the local football club. I want to be the coach of my child's team. I had previously applied for a blue card but received a negative notice. I still want to be the coach and want to rely on the volunteer parent exemption because I am coaching my own child's team. Can I rely on the volunteer parent exemption?

**Answer:** No. You are considered a restricted person as you have been issued with a negative notice. Restricted employment includes volunteering as a parent within a sporting organisation.

**Scenario:** I am a 17 year old student completing a Certificate IV in Fitness. I want to volunteer at the local high school, conducting fitness programs for teenagers. I was charged with disqualifying offence, which is currently waiting to be heard in court. Can I still rely on the volunteer exemption to go into the school?

**Answer:** No. You are considered a restricted person as you have been charged with a disqualifying offence which has not been finalised.

**Scenario:** I am a motivational speaker who has been asked to deliver a paid presentation to a grade 12 cohort. I have advised the school that I have previously been issued a negative notice. However, as this is a one-off event, can I rely on an exemption?

**Answer:** No. You are considered a restricted person as you have been issued with a negative notice. Restricted employment includes work that is not more than 7 days in a calendar year.