



commission for
children and young people
and child guardian

Health, counselling and support services

The Commission's Act fosters the creation of safe service environments for children and young people in Queensland by requiring written child protection risk management strategies, including blue cards for people who work with children under 18 in certain businesses, or paid or voluntary employment.

The *Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000* has been amended to clarify the blue card and risk management requirements for people working in **health, counselling and support services**.

What services need risk management strategies?

Organisations and individuals are required to develop and implement a risk management strategy to protect children if:

- the usual activities of their business include (or are likely to include) providing health, counselling or support services to a child, **or**
- they are engaging paid employees and volunteers (including students) to provide health, counselling or support services.

Note: For more information about creating a child protection risk management strategy please see the Commission's website.

Who needs to hold a blue card?

Paid employees, volunteers and trainee students

Paid employees, volunteers and students **DO need a blue card** if a usual function of their employment

includes (or is likely to include) providing health, counselling or support service to a child. See table below for more details.

People **do NOT need a blue card** under this category, if they are:

- a registered health practitioner, or
- an employee of a licensed care service, or
- an employee of a government service provider, or
- an Australian lawyer practicing in Queensland under the *Legal Profession Act 2007*, or
- a registered teacher carrying out duties for the school where they are employed, or
- an employee who has complied with the screening requirements of the *Disability Services Act 2006*.

Note: For further information about potential exemptions please visit the Commission's website.

Businesses

Organisations and individuals **DO need a blue card** if the usual activities of the business include, or are likely to include providing health, counselling or support services to a child. See table below for more details.

If the business is a corporation, all executive officers with decision-making responsibilities (ie. not just an advisory role) who permanently reside in Australia, must hold a blue card.

People running businesses **do NOT need a blue card** under this category, if they are a registered health practitioner or the business is:

- a government service provider, or
- a licensed care service.

What is a health, counselling or support service?

Health service	Examples include	Key exclusions
<p>A health service is a service for maintaining, improving, restoring or caring for a child or young person's health and wellbeing, which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • requires physical contact with the child (beyond incidental contact), or • is provided to the child while no one else is physically present. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • students doing practical placements to become registered health practitioners • an aide to an alternative health care practitioner • a ward assistant involved in moving child patients in a private hospital. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • registered health practitioners • those providing beauty therapy, body piercing or hairdressing services • friends and family providing personal care to a sick child • an employee of a government service provider such as Queensland Health.

Health services continued	Examples include continued	Key exclusions continued
<p>These services are provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> at a hospital, community health facility or other health facility by a midwife or nurse by a paramedic or ambulance officer by a practitioner of hypnosis, naturopathy, acupuncture or another form of natural or alternative health care to assist a child who is ill, injured or otherwise infirm with personal care (eg. helping with personal hygiene or dressing) for respite care <p>or are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> medical services massage services, including massages for relaxation services prescribed as a 'health service' under a regulation part of a service listed above, or provided by a registered health practitioner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a person providing remedial massage services to a child a care worker or nurse providing personal care to a sick child, for example helping with personal hygiene or dressing 	
Counselling services	Examples include	Key exclusions
<p>A counselling service is a service provided on a professional basis, to help a child or young person resolve personal, social or emotional problems or difficulties where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no one else is physically present, or the provider of the service is not physically present, eg. over the telephone or Internet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> those providing a counselling service to children over the Internet those providing a telephone helpline service for children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a registered psychologist an employee of a licensed care service.
Support services	Examples include	Key exclusions
<p>A support service is a service which provides emotional support, mentoring or pastoral care to a child or young person where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no one else is physically present, or the provider of the service is not physically present, eg. over the telephone or Internet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> those providing emotional support for child victims or witnesses in connection with court or other legal proceedings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> those providing legal advice or a legal advocacy service those providing help or guidance to a child employee registered teachers providing support to a child attending the school where the teacher is employed, or carers for children with a disability who have a positive notice issued under the <i>Disability Services Act 2006</i>.

When does this apply?

From 11 September 2007, people who need a blue card can continue providing services to children if they have a current blue card application with the Commission, or if they apply for a blue card by 10 December 2007. However, if a person's blue card has been suspended or they have been issued with a negative notice, they cannot start or continue to provide services to children.

Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian

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