

## Blue Card System – Information Sheet

# Au pairs, nannies and babysitters

This information sheet provides information about when a blue card is required when providing care for children as an *au pair*, *nanny* or *babysitter*.

### When do I need a blue card?

*Au pairs*, *nannies* and *babysitters* require a blue card when providing child care services to children, either as a paid employee or when carrying on a business or working in a self-employed capacity.

### What if I receive accommodation, not payment, in return for my services?

You will require a blue card if you are receiving free or subsidised accommodation in return for your services as an *au pair*, *nanny* or *babysitter*. This is because the free or subsidised accommodation would be considered a reward.

### How do I apply for a blue card?

Blue card application forms can be obtained by visiting [www.bluecard.qld.gov.au](http://www.bluecard.qld.gov.au)

#### Paid employees

Paid employees, engaged to provide *au pair*, *nanny* or *babysitting* services through an agency or directly with a family, should lodge a *Blue card application (BC)* form and include the details of the agency or family in the 'Organisation details' section of the form.

A representative from the agency or family will check the applicant's relevant identifying documents before lodging the application with Blue Card Services. The application must be submitted along with the prescribed fee.

#### Self-employed individuals

Individuals carrying on their own business or working in a self-employed capacity need to apply directly to Blue Card Services by lodging a *Blue card business application (BCB)* form.

A business applicant's identification documents must be sighted by a Justice of the Peace, Commissioner for Declarations, Lawyer or Police officer.

### What if I already have a blue card?

If you already hold a blue card then you may be able to use your existing card when providing *au pair*, *nanny* or *babysitting* services to children.

#### Paid employees

This is done by submitting a *Link an applicant/cardholder to this organisation* form.

Upon lodgement of this form, Blue Card Services will update its records to include your new employer or organisation who will then receive important updates about certain blue card matters.

Where a volunteer blue card holder is moving into a paid child-related activity, the 'volunteer' card must be transferred to a 'paid' card by submitting either a *Volunteer to paid employment transfer* form or the *Volunteer to business employment transfer* form.

#### Self-employed individuals

Where a paid blue card holder is intending to operate as a business or operate in a self-employed capacity, they must complete a *Notification of change for self-employed persons* form.

### Validating a blue card

Employers (such as an agency or family) can check whether a blue card is valid by using the '[Validate card](#)' service on the Blue Card Services website.

The validation service is a point in time check only and does not replace the existing requirement for employers to submit a *Link an applicant/cardholder to this organisation* form to Blue Card Services.

### Need further information?

For more information please visit our website at [www.bluecard.qld.gov.au](http://www.bluecard.qld.gov.au) or telephone us on **1800 113 611**.

Common Scenarios	Do I need a blue card?
I am babysitting my niece or nephew	No, a blue card is not required to provide child care to a relative.
I regularly babysit my neighbour's children	If you receive reward, then you will require a blue card.
I am an au pair but I do not receive payment for providing child care	Yes, If you receive reward such as accommodation, you will require a blue card because your free or subsidised accommodation would be considered a reward.
I am not employed by an organisation, I do not have an ABN and I provide babysitting and nanny services to children	Yes, a blue card is required. You are considered a business for blue card screening purposes.  An ABN is not required in order to apply as a business.
I am under 18 years of age and I babysit other children	If you receive reward to provide babysitting to children, you will require a blue card.
I am a nurse registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency providing nanny services to children.	Yes, you will require a blue card as the services you are providing do not relate to your functions as a registered health practitioner.  See the Blue Card Services website for more information regarding when a registered health practitioner does or does not require a blue card.
I am paid to provide child care to a friend's child and my friend receives a child care benefit	Yes, a blue card is required.
I am paid to provide child care to a my niece and nephew and my brother/sister (the parent) receives a child care benefit	No, a blue card is not required to provide child care to a relative.