



# Scouts Australia (SA Branch) Child Protection Adult Screening Requirements

## 1 BACKGROUND

The *Children's Protection Act 1993* was replaced by the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2016*, the *Children's Protection Law Reform (Transitional Arrangements and Related Amendments) Act 2017*, and the *Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Regulations 2019*. This legislation requires any individual who is working with children to obtain a 'Working with Children Check' (WWCC) processed by the Department of Human Services (DHS) Screening Unit. The requirement for a WWCC applies to all Leaders, Commissioners, Adult Helpers, Youth Helpers over 14yo, members of Branch Fellowship, Rovers, Committee Members, staff of Scouts SA, parents and carers who are attending overnight activities, and any other members who are actively assisting in youth activities.

A WWCC is valid for five years and is portable across different child-related organisations and roles in SA. Members are encouraged to apply for a WWCC through Scouts SA, whilst parents and non-members must apply directly to the DHS Screening Unit as an individual. There is no fee for a WWCC for volunteers. Individuals already in possession of a WWCC can submit this document to Scouts SA.

## 2 SCREENING OF ADULT MEMBERS OF SCOUTS SA

In accordance with the Australian Human Rights Commission's '[10 Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#)', the Scouts Australia *Child Protection Policy and Prescribed Procedures*, the Scouts SA *Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and Prescribed Procedures*, and our continuing best practice screening of volunteers, Scouts SA has determined that it will retain the use of the criminal history provided by a National Police Certificate (NPC) to complement the new WWCC legislative requirements.

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Scouts SA deems it paramount to the safety of our Youth Members that the right adults are being placed in the right roles within our organisation. The WWCC does not list any conviction history for an individual so does not allow Scouts SA to ensure that our Leaders are the best role models and community citizens for our Youth Members (irrespective of risk to child safety). At this time, Scouts SA has taken the position that the WWCC in isolation does not give our organisation the level of screening we require.

Any enquiries relating to the screening of Adult Members of Scouts SA should be directed to [membership@sa.scouts.com.au](mailto:membership@sa.scouts.com.au)

### **3 PARENTS AND NON-MEMBERS OF SCOUTS SA**

The legislation is clear that any adult participating in overnight activities where there are children present must hold a WWCC. It is understood that this may have a profound effect on camping activities and, in particular, Joey and Cub Sleepovers. Logistically, it is not possible for Scouts SA to log and monitor the currency of WWCCs amongst non-members. Accordingly, it will be up to Scout Groups to monitor its parents and carers. It is suggested that Scout Groups maintain a simple spreadsheet of parent records where possession of a WWCC is to be logged. This record is to be kept at the Group/Activity level and be made available to the Branch when requested.

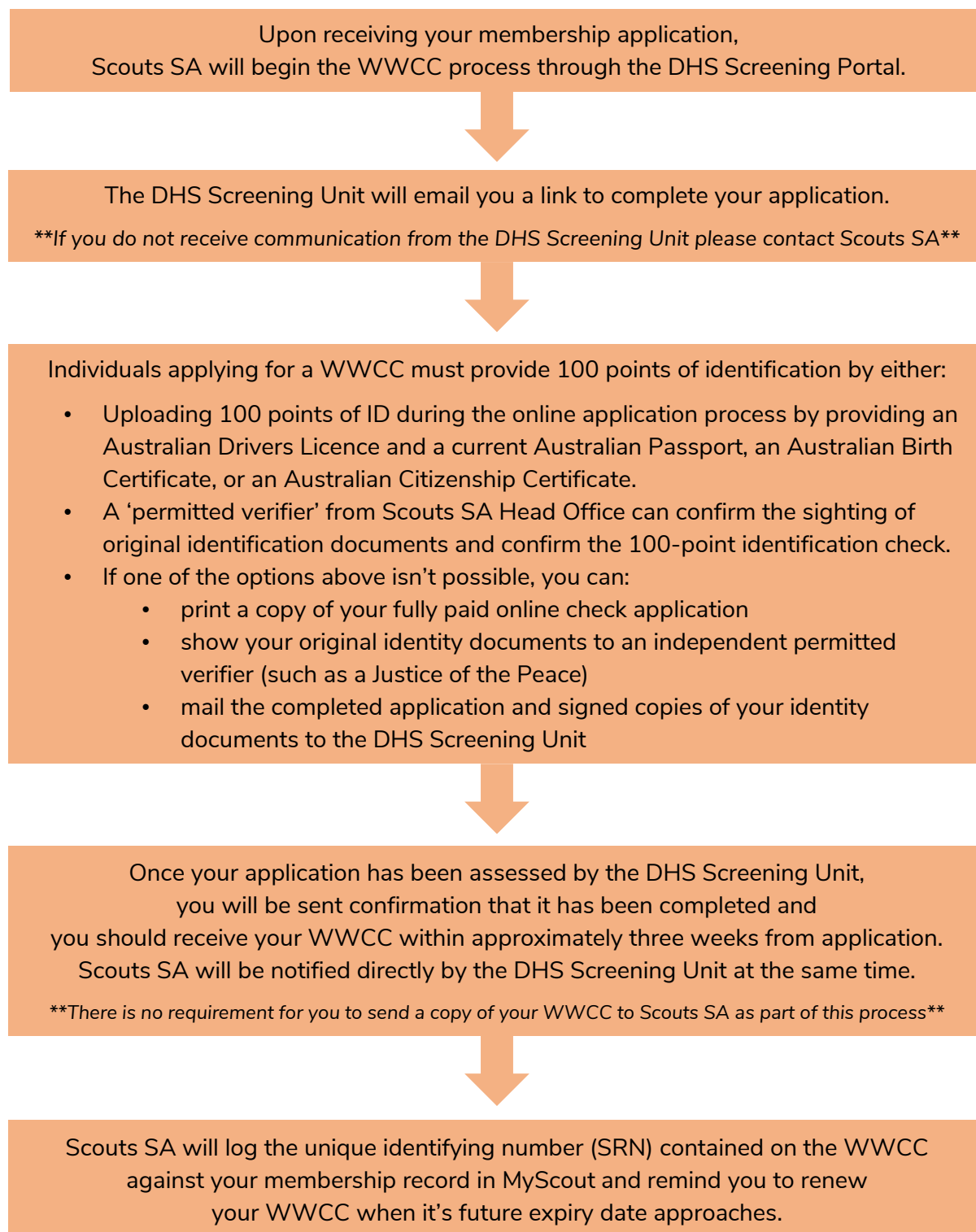
Scouts SA is unable to initiate a WWCC for non-members. Non-members and parents are referred to <https://screening.sa.gov.au/applications/application-information-for-individuals> to initiate an application. There is no charge to any individual applying for a WWCC as a volunteer. Parents and non-members of Scouts SA do not require an NPC. Non-members and parents that already hold a WWCC can provide that information to their Scout group, and this can be verified by Scouts SA Head Office staff through the DHS portal by emailing [membership@sa.scouts.com.au](mailto:membership@sa.scouts.com.au)

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## 4 OBTAINING A WORKING WITH CHILD CHECK

To apply for a WWCC through Scouts SA, follow the instructions below.

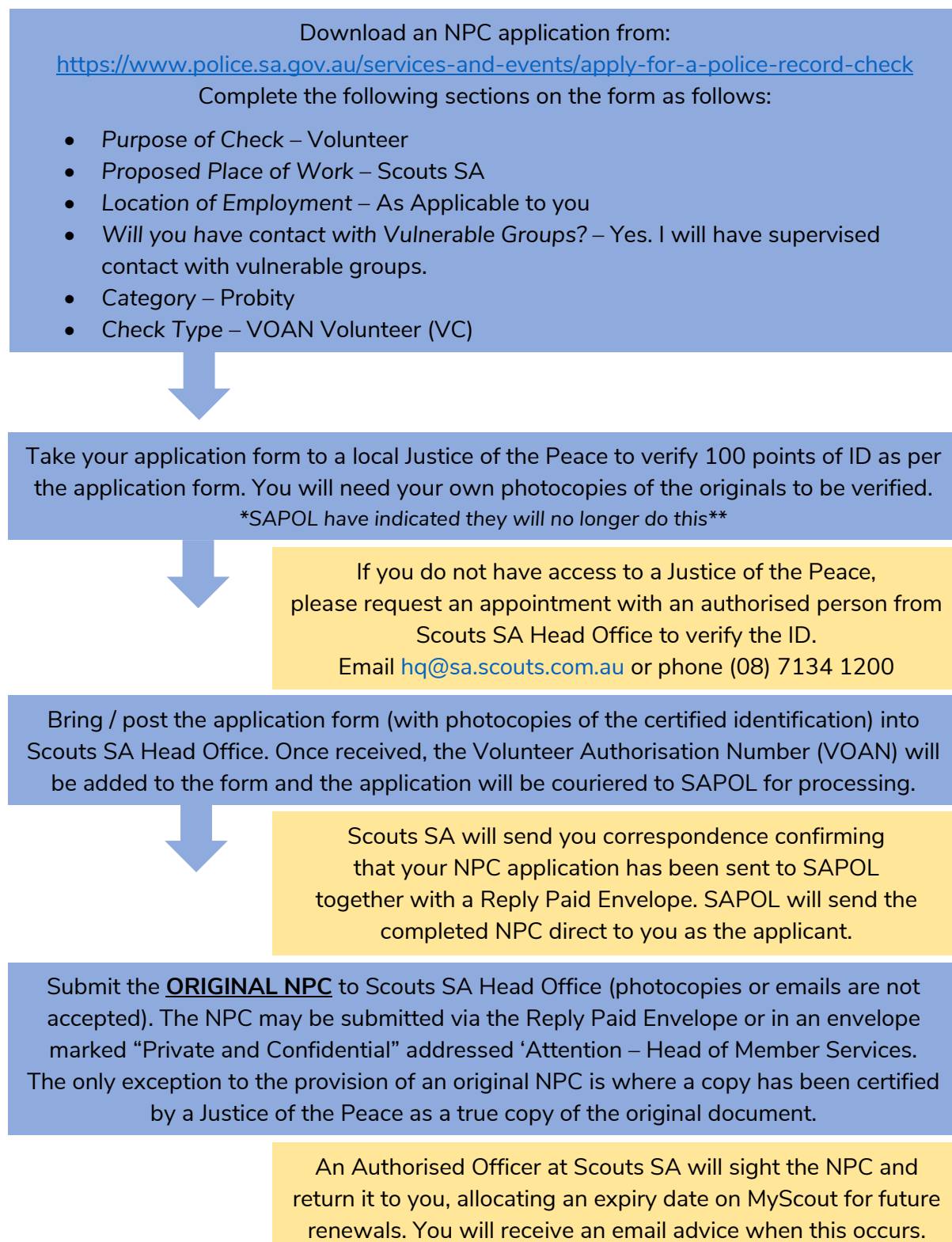


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## 5 OBTAINING A NATIONAL POLICE CERTIFICATE

To apply for a new National Police Certificate (NPC) through Scouts SA, follow the instructions below. If you've obtained an NPC for non-Scouting purposes within the last 12 months, you may use that instead by supplying the **ORIGINAL** NPC to Scouts SA Head Office.



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## 6 DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version No.	Created/ Revised	Sections Changed / Amendments	Approved by
1	08/2019	Screening Requirements created.	Branch Leadership Team
2	08/2024	Screening Requirements updated	Branch Leadership Team

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