

The Working with Children Check is the most crucial and important tool to help fight and stop the sexual abuse of children.

There needs to be one National Database, because there are different systems in all the States and in Tasmania, no system at all.

It should be set up like a drivers licence for Heavy trucks, which is a National licencing scheme. In Victoria if you drive a truck that is heavy or higher you get a purple licence that states it is a Victorian Licence, but at the same time at the top of it, it states Australia, which means it is part of the National licencing scheme with a National data base, so points can be accumulated for bad driving in all states.

I have a working with Children Check in Melbourne and the card is cracked in half and I have plastic laminated around it to hold it together so it is not strong enough and is very flimsy.

A person interstate forged a Working with Children check so he could obtain a job running a children's centre and some time later he was caught with child porn and he has also been charged with molesting children. There needs to be in place, laws that reflect the seriousness of forging or altering Working with Children Checks.

The cards need to be hologrammed like a Victorian car licence so they cant be forged, they also need to state on the card that the card MUST be sighted.

We have had many cases in Victoria where Working with Children checks have been knocked back by the Justice Department only to be appealed to VCAT and the original decision overturned. You must remember that child abusers will go to any lengths to work with children and so therefore the Working with Children Check at issue must be the most rigid of all checks with no appeal process available. Any person that takes part in child porn, abusing children or threatening children in any way should never be allowed to work with children.

There have been hundreds of cases of religious people who weren't reported to the police for crimes against children and therefore they are not registered on any registry as offenders. The church leaders deliberately refused to report cases to protect their own brand and assets and all these perpetrators have been free for decades to re offend. These people must be tracked down and added to the list of offenders.

There may well be resistance from wealthy well connected people who hold very high positions of power in Governments and Religions to change any laws that will help detect predators. You must do your job and change these laws that politicians have been reluctant to change for decades to protect children over and above the rights of perpetrators and perpetrator organisations.

There are no checks on Religious Clergy entering the country, or an limits on how many. They are the only group that comes and goes from Australia as they please with no scrutiny. 'God sent them'. Its the perfect cover for predators.

It is necessary that checks include overseas checks with the Police in the countries in which a person has resided, so that any charges of offences against children are known.

The Children Check should apply to all people who have contact with children, be it, sports, dancing, religion, school, government organisations, , camps, maintenance, any contact with children through any organisation, it is not the end all, but it certainly is a good start.

Yours Sincerely Brian Cherrie  **(**
public submission)