New ‘Working with Children Check’
for Sports Volunteers

In July 2014 the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013 was enacted in Tasmania. All Schools and Colleges must comply with the new legislation.

The purpose of the legislation is to significantly improve safeguards and child protection processes to help keep children safe from harm.

Under the new legislation:

- Employees and Volunteers must apply for their own Working with Children Check (WWCC) once every three years;
- Employers will verify a child-related Employee or Volunteer’s registration number with the Tasmanian Department of Justice;
- The same WWCC will apply to everyone – Employees, Self-Employed people and Volunteers; and
- Everyone with a registration will be continuously monitored for serious sex or violence offences.

To cope with the influx of Checks, the Department of Justice have implemented a three-year phase in schedule. Registrations can only be lodged in accordance with that schedule.

The majority of Employees and Volunteers in Catholic schools will not be required to be registered until 1 October 2015. However, registrations are required earlier for those working or volunteering in Child Care Services and Coaching and Tuition Services.

If you would like to volunteer as a coach, assistant coach, manager or tutor for the College in 2015, including, but not limited to, coaching or tutoring in a sport, singing, a musical instrument, dance or educational matters, the registration period opened on 1 October 2014 and registration must be in place by 1 April 2015.

If you currently hold a valid TCEO Police Check that is due to expire on 31 December 2014, please note that the expiry date will be extended until 30 June 2015. You must still have your WWC Registration in place by 1 April 2015.
How Do I Apply for a WWC Check and Number?

1. Complete the online application form. This is available from the website: http://www.justice.tas.gov.au/working_with_children.

2. Print the ‘Application Receipt’ which is generated when the Application has been completed in full. (If you do not have access to a printer, record the reference number and take that to a Service Tasmania Shop).

3. Take the ‘Application Receipt’ to a Service Tasmania Shop, pay the prescribed fee ($17.76 for three years) have your photo taken and have your identity confirmed. You will need to provide 100 points of identification. A Driver’s Licence is 100 points.

4. The Tasmanian Department of Justice will assess and process Applications and issue the appropriate Assessment Notice and Working with Children Card directly to the applicant.

How long will the Checks take to process?

Generally applicants will receive their results within six weeks of completing the application process. There may be delays, however, depending on the applicant’s personal information and Service Tasmania workloads. Volunteers in Catholic Education cannot commence volunteering until they have received a satisfactory WWCC.

For further information please see the Department of Justice website: http://www.justice.tas.gov.au/working_with_children, or contact the College.