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## Changes to Working With Children Checks

Changes have been made to the *Working with Children Act 2005* to clarify and simplify the requirements of holding a Check and implement key recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

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The changes have come into effect on **1 August 2017** and mean that Working with Children Checks will be needed in some situations where they were not previously required.

People undertaking child-related work whose contact with children is supervised by another person will now be required to hold a Check.

**For example:** Chris has taken up a position as an assistant coach of a junior football team. Even though he is directly supervised by the head coach, Chris is required to hold a Check.

The meaning of direct contact will be expanded to cover all types of contact including written and verbal contact as well as contact by email and through electronic means.

**For example:** John is employed as a counsellor with a phone counselling service specifically for young people aged between 5 and 18. Because John's role involves direct contact with children by telephone, he is required to hold a Check.