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## National Police Check renewals – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### Why are National Police Checks renewals required?

Scouts Australia Policy & Rules 5.3.6 and the National Child Protection Policy require regular police check renewals to be undertaken for all adult members.

### I've been a leader for many years, why are you asking for this now?

There are many reasons this may not have previously been undertaken however the recent introduction of the National Child Protection Policy and Victorian Child Safe Standards provides an opportunity to continue strengthening our approach to child safe scouting. We all agree nothing is more important than the welfare of the children in our care.

### What's the difference between a National Police Check and the Working With Children Card (WWCC) check?

A national police check is not an assessment by a government agency. It is a list, at a given point in time, of the offences a person has committed. This list can help assess a person's suitability for other kinds of work.

Working with Children Checks only consider 'relevant offences' as listed in the Working with Children Act, such as serious sexual, violent and drug offences.

### Why can't we do this with the Working With Children Card (WWCC) check?

We'd love this too. Unfortunately, the WWCC is run by the Department of Justice & Regulation and the National Police Check is done through the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission. They check for different things, although there is crossover. Also, the renewal dates for WWCC and National Police Checks do not necessarily align.

### I have a current National Police Check with another organization. Is that enough?

That means the other organisation has accepted you for that volunteer or employed role. They are a different organization, with different policies and practices on what is acceptable for their organisation. We need to apply our own review process.

Every Check is done for the specific purpose identified in the request. Any police history information released is based on the purpose and category of the check for which it is lodged. No organization should accept a National Police Check that has been done for another organization.

## May I have a copy of my National Police Check?

Yes. As noted just above, every Check is done for a specific purpose for a specific organization. If you want a copy to use elsewhere or 'for my records', it won't be useable by any other organization; they will require you to complete another Check.

Your Check is available for 365 days, so if you do need a copy of it in the future, please contact us when that time arrives and we can download a copy for you. Otherwise it is just another piece of paper to file or misplace.

## How do I know my information/document(s) is secure?

This is covered under [our Privacy Policy](#), but in short, the certified documentation you provide is treated exactly the same as all of the other personal information we store on you. It is password protected or in locked & secure storage. All copies are kept for twelve months and then will be destroyed, as required by CrimCheck.

## What identification documents are required and who can certify them?

A list of suitable identification is available on our website under [Forms and Tools](#) > [100 Point Identity Check](#)

People able to certify these documents can be found at [Schedule 2 of the Statutory Declarations Regulations 1993 \(Cth\)](#)

If you have a copy of the certified documents you have used for anything else and they are less than 12 months old, you may submit these certified copies. There is no need to have another certification done.

## What is included in a National Police Check Report?

A National Police Check Report involves identifying and releasing any Police history information held about an individual, from all Australian States and Territories based on the purpose of the check.

The results will indicate either:

- No Disclosable Court Outcomes (NDCO) - to indicate that there is no Police History Information that is held or that can be released
- Disclosable Court Outcomes (DCO) - to indicate that Police History Information exists that can be released

## How do I know you are writing to me or the other person I share the email with?

We're afraid you will have to work that out yourselves; it is your email address! These National Police Checks are being processed in bulk and you will notice that the emails are generic, not addressed to any individual. Neither ourselves nor CrimCheck will know that an email address is for an individual or shared by two or more people.



## What is a Disclosable Court Outcome?

The National Police Check Report Information may include:

- Pending matters awaiting court hearing
- Charges
- Court convictions – including any penalty or sentence
- Findings of guilt with no conviction
- Good behaviour bonds or other court orders

The Police history information which is disclosed in the results is determined by each Police Agency, based on Spent Conviction Legislation and Information Release Policies. The purpose of the National Police Check and any other relevant legislation also determines what information can be released.

## What happens if I have a disclosable outcome on my check?

Scouts Victoria applies a consistent process for all National Police Checks which contain disclosable outcomes and acts in accordance with the National Child Protection Policy. Should your National Police Check contain a disclosable outcome you will receive further communication which may require an interview with your next level Commissioner.

