



Telephone: 07 3247 5525
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10 DEC 2007

Brisbane World Youth Day Secretariat
St Stephen's Qld School Building
172 Elizabeth Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Thank you for your email and subsequent telephone conversation with an Officer of the Commission regarding the blue card requirements for participants at World Youth Day.

As you may be aware, only people providing certain essential and developmentally focused child-related services regulated by the specific categories in the Commission's Act are required to hold a blue card.

Families providing homestay for pilgrims

The 'child accommodation including homestay' category of regulated employment is the relevant category for families providing homestay accommodation to pilgrims aged between 16 and 17 years of age. Under this category, volunteers need a blue card if a usual function of their employment includes, or is likely to include providing a child accommodation service, including homestay.

However, a blue card is not required if the homestay is organised by a recognised body and is for 10 days or less and provided on no more than two occasions per year. Accordingly, as your homestay families are only providing accommodation to the pilgrims for four days on a one-off basis, they do not need a blue card. Further, families providing homestay services to pilgrims over the age of 18 years of age do not need a blue card as they are not providing an essential service to children.

Group Leaders and Pastoral care providers

Group Leaders and Pastoral care providers accompanying the 16 and 17 year old pilgrims to Sydney need a blue card under the 'churches, clubs and associations' category of regulated employment. Under this category, volunteers need a blue card if they are employed by or within a church, club, association or similar entity and the

usual function of their employment includes or is likely to include providing a service directed mainly towards children or conducting an activity mainly involving children.

Volunteers must hold a blue card before they begin volunteer work, regardless of how often they come into contact with children and young people.

Pilgrims over the age of 18 years

Pilgrims over the age of 18 years of age who are simply participating in the activity as members of the group do not need a blue card as they are not providing a service mainly directed towards children or conducting an activity mainly directed towards children.

While the blue card screening conducted by the Commission is a significant step in the protection of children and young people, it is important to appreciate that this is only one component in a suite of strategies supported by the government to promote safe environments for children and young people. The identification and management of risks of harm to children is essential to the creation of child safe, child friendly service environments. As World Youth Day is a special event in the churches calendar, in addition to the child protection risk management strategies already in place in each diocese you should develop a child protection risk management strategy for high risk activities conducted as part of this special event. I have enclosed an Information Sheet on Child Protection Risk Management Strategies which directs you to the Commission's website for further information and resources which may assist you.

I hope this information is of assistance, however if you require further information or clarification please contact the Manager, Client Services and Information Quality on **3239 3720**.

Thank you for your collaboration in fostering safe service environments for children and young people participating in World Youth Day activities in Queensland.

Yours sincerely



Barry Salmon
**A/Commissioner for Children and Young People
and Child Guardian**

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