

## FACTSHEET 5

# Child Protection Policy Advisory Service

## Vulnerable Children Act 2014 Implications for schools



### Who does the Vulnerable Children Act apply to?

This Act covers all government agencies from the Ministry of Education and specifically attributes responsibility to School Boards.

### What does the Vulnerable Children Act say?

The Act states that schools must adopt a Child Protection Policy and conduct safety checks on all children's workers.

### What must a child protection policy contain?

The Act stipulates that child protection policies must be in written form and include information on the identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect. Further information is available that outlines the contents of a robust and effective policy.

### When do schools have to become compliant with the Act?

The Vulnerable Children Act 2014 became legislation on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014. Schools which have two years to become compliant with the Act so a child protection policy must be implemented by July 2016.

### What's the definition of a children's worker?

A children's worker is someone who has regular or overnight contact with children, without a parent or guardian being present, as part of their role.

### What does safety checking involve?

- Identity verification – proof that people are who they say. Checking former identities
- Information verification – police vet checks, qualifications and registration bodies
- Risk assessment – thorough analysis of information through application forms, formal interview, reference checks and other processes
- Periodic re-assessment – every three years

**Child Matters offers a policy advisory service to assist with your organisation's child protection policy at any stage from inception to implementation and beyond**

Phone: **07 838 3370** Email: [info@childmatters.org.nz](mailto:info@childmatters.org.nz) Website: [www.childmatters.org.nz](http://www.childmatters.org.nz)

<http://www.childmatters.org.nz/46/teachers-education>