

Disability Support Worker Screening: What Does it mean?

Disability Support Worker screening has always been done, like most organisations, through National Police Checks, Working with Vulnerable Person's Checks, and Driving Licence checks.

This will change from July 1, 2019 when the NDIS introduces its own national disability support worker screening check.

This check will look at the following items to ascertain whether the person poses an unacceptable risk to NDIS participants:

- Convictions (including spent and quashed convictions)
- Other police / court information (including current or pending charges)
- Apprehended Violence Orders
- Child Protection Orders
- Child protection information
- International police checks for those who have worked overseas (when feasible)
- Workplace misconduct (which comes to light through complaints and serious incident reporting).

The clearance will be recognised in all States.

The NDIS are assuring us that people who have committed offences in the past, that have no bearing on their current ability to safely support a person with a disability will not be excluded from the workforce. If a person does not receive a clearance they will have avenues of appeal.

Organisations like NWSS will have to ensure that all employees involved directly with participants have received clearances.

The NDIS will regularly audit organisations to ensure that all disability support workers have clearances.

As soon as we have more details on how to apply we will let everyone know.