

## Working with Children Clearance

## Fact Sheet

The objective of the *Teacher Registration (Northern Territory) Act 2004* (the Act) is to ensure that only persons who are fit and proper, appropriately qualified and competent to teach, are employed as teachers in the Northern Territory. The Act now contains provisions pertaining requiring that the Board be notified of certain information by teachers, employers and other government agencies such as Police and the Director of Public Prosecutions. It is an offence to provide false or misleading information to the Board. However people who provide information to the Board acting in good faith are protected.

The Act now requires the Board to consider whether a person holds a current Northern Territory Working with Children Clearance (Ochre Card) when making decisions about their fitness and propriety. This amendment is focused on strengthening student safety and achieving consistency with the *Care and Protection of Children Act 2007*.

### Why do I need an Ochre Card to register as a teacher?

The community trusts our teachers to keep children safe. If a teacher does not hold an Ochre Card, they should not be teaching Territory children. This brings the teacher registration processes into line with other working with children clearance regimes across the Northern Territory.

The Board will consider whether you have a current Ochre card at the point of applying for, and during, your registration or authorisation. If you are registered and you cease to hold an Ochre card, the Board does not need to undertake its own disciplinary process in order to cancel your registration.

These measures are to ensure that people who pose an unacceptable risk of harm or exploitation to children cannot teach children in Northern Territory schools.

### What are my obligations?

You must notify the Board if you cease to hold an Ochre Card within 14 days of the cessation of the Ochre Card. This applies if your Ochre card is revoked, or if your Ochre card expires and you have not yet been issued with a new Ochre card. If you don't notify the Board of this, you may face professional conduct proceedings with the Board.

### When do I need to notify the Board of my Ochre Card details?

If you cease to hold an Ochre Card, the Board may cancel your registration. If your Ochre Card is reinstated after your teacher registration is cancelled the Board may reinstate your registration.

The Board has arrangements in place for sharing information with SAFE NT to streamline processes for teachers – always remember to tick the box on the application for an Ochre Card saying that you are a teacher.

For more information on Ochre Cards and your registration or authority to teach, please refer to the Working with Children Clearance guidelines on the Board's website [www.trb.nt.gov.au](http://www.trb.nt.gov.au).

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