

## Police Vetting of Volunteers.

### **Response:**

While there is no legislative requirement to Police vet volunteers, a school through its child protection (or similar) policy, may decide that Police vetting is required for some or all of their volunteers.

The Ministry of Education has provided a range of guidance and support for schools about Police Vetting and the broader safety checking requirements including:

- Police vetting is part of the safety checking process a school or kura Māori must do when employing or engaging staff - as part of their responsibilities under both the Education Act 1989 and the Vulnerable Children Act 2014
- All children's workers need to be police vetted. This includes staff employed and other children's workers engaged (whether you contract them or not) in your school or kura Māori, whose work involves regular or overnight contact with children
- Volunteers don't need to be police vetted under the Vulnerable Children Act 2014 or the Education Act 1989
- A school or kura Māori can choose whether to safety check (including whether to vet) their volunteers that support their school (this may be guided by the school's own child protection policy and any health and safety policy or procedures)

In this situation, the school policy may well require all volunteers to be vetted regardless of their level of engagement with children.

The Ministry of Education has developed a useful quick-guide which can assist schools to determine who is required to be safety checked (including a Police Vet) - [What checks do I need to undertake for adults coming into my school or kura?](#)

Further to this, the guidance the Ministry has provided to schools and early learning services regarding the [Vulnerable Children Act](#) notes:

**Page 25 - 4.4 Safety checking (or Police vetting) volunteers**

*Volunteers in your Service or school may include educators, parent helpers, club leaders and sports coaches. Volunteers (as unpaid workers) are not required to be safety checked under the new VCA requirements. The only unpaid workers who will need to be safety checked are those working in Services or schools, as part of an educational or vocational training course e.g. student teachers on practicum.*

Part 6 provides further information about child protection policies including:

**Page 41 - 6.3.3 Who should it apply to?**

*Your child protection policy should cover all those who are employed or engaged as children's workers in your Service or school. It can also be expanded to include:*

- *staff members who are volunteers*
- *unpaid workers undertaking educational or vocational training courses*
- *itinerant teachers (such as RTLB, RTLit, RTM etc)*
- *volunteers*
- *statutory appointees*
- *contractors*
- *parents*
- *visitors.*