



# Child accommodation and home stay providers

This fact sheet provides information about when a blue card or exemption card is required when people participate in home stay arrangements under the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000* (the Act).

## When do I need a blue card?

A person who provides accommodation for a child in their home as part of a home stay arrangement which is organised through a school or organisation for a period of more than 7 days in a calendar year **must have** a blue card or exemption card.

All adults residing in the home in which home stay is being conducted must have a valid blue card or exemption card before the home stay service is provided to a child. Adults residing in the home are considered volunteers—even if they are not actively involved in providing the home stay services. For example, if you are preparing meals for the child, or driving them to school or another activity you will require a volunteer blue card. A person who provides home stay accommodation without a blue card or an exemption card can face fines up to \$66,725 (500 penalty units) or 5 years' imprisonment.

## When is a blue card not required?

- A person who provides home stay services to a child who is a relative **does not need** a blue card.
- A person who provides home stay services to an adult **does not need** a blue card.
- People under the age of 18 who live in a home where home stay services are provided **do not need** a blue card or other students who are under the age of 18 **do not need** a blue card.
- Another international student over the age of 18 who is temporarily staying in the home where home stay services are provided **does not need** a blue card.

## How do I apply for a blue card?

Information on how to apply for a blue card is available on Blue Card Services' website at [www.qld.gov.au/bluecard](http://www.qld.gov.au/bluecard).

## What if I already have a blue card?

If you already hold a valid blue card, then you can begin providing home stay services to children once you let Blue Card Services know you'll be providing home stay services.

You can do this by submitting a [Link a person to your organisation](#) form with the school/home stay organisation.

## Child and Youth Risk Management Strategies

Home stay providers are required by legislation to develop and implement child and youth risk management strategies to comply with their legislative requirements. To assist organisations to develop and strengthen their child and youth risk management strategy, there are a number of resources available, including a [toolkit](#), [videos](#) and [fact sheets](#), on our website at [www.qld.gov.au/bluecard](http://www.qld.gov.au/bluecard).



### Frequently asked questions

These scenarios are commonly asked, but may not apply directly to your situation. Please contact us to discuss the specific details of your child accommodation or home stay situation for accurate advice.

**What happens if one of the other home stay students turn 18 during their stay, do they need a blue card?**

**Maybe**, it depends on the length of the stay of the person turning 18. If they are considered to be residing in the home, then **they will** need a blue card. If they are not considered to be residing, only temporarily staying in the home, then no, **they will not** need a blue card

**I am a registered teacher providing home stay to students at my school, do I need a blue card?**

**Yes**, you may need an exemption card. You can apply for an exemption card online.

**What happens if my mother comes to visit me and ends up staying overnight, does she need a blue card?**

**No**, because she is not residing in the home. Your child and youth risk management strategy should include policies and procedures about the expected standards of conduct for people visiting/staying during home stay periods.

**I don't have a child and youth risk management strategy, where do I start?**

You can start by downloading our self-audit checklist. You may find that the bulk of the child and youth risk management strategy is already within your existing policies and procedures. This document will help you to identify any gaps and guide you to the relevant topics within our [toolkit](#). We also have [videos](#) available on our website which go through each of the eight mandatory requirements.

**I have a 17 year old child who will turn 18 during the time I am providing a home stay service: when can they apply for a blue card?**

Blue Card Services can accept an application from a 17 year old, 6 months prior to them turning 18. We will process the application, however if they are eligible for a blue card they will not receive the card until they turn 18.

**Do other students in the home need to have a blue card?**

**No**, students under the age of 18 residing in the home do not require a blue card.

**Do visiting groups or teachers from overseas need blue cards?**

**Maybe**, it depends on the nature of the activities being conducted. For example, if an overseas teacher accompanies a study group and **does not** provide any other services or activities to children in Queensland, a blue card is not required. However, if the same teacher taught a language class at a school, a blue card **may be required**. Please contact Blue Card Services to discuss further.

**Need more information?**



Please call us on **1800 113 611** or **07 3211 6999** between **8am–5pm** on **Monday to Friday** or visit [www.qld.gov.au/bluecard](http://www.qld.gov.au/bluecard).