

## Question on Notice

No. 964

Asked on 22 August 2018

**MR D JANETZKI** ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE (HON Y D'ATH) –

### QUESTION:

With reference to Blue Card Services—

Will the Attorney-General advise how many current applications were withdrawn or blue cards cancelled from 2015 to 2018 as a result of a charge or conviction of a disqualifying offence (reported separately by year)?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Toowoomba South for his question.

The blue card system mitigates past, present and future risks to children through:

- screening people working with children and deeming people ineligible to work with children based on their known police or disciplinary information;
- monitoring all blue card holders and applicants on a daily basis through an electronic interface with the Queensland Police Service (QPS) for changes in their Queensland police information; and
- legislatively requiring child-related organisations to implement policies and procedures to manage risks to children.

People with no known police or disciplinary information are automatically issued with a blue card. Where a person has known police or disciplinary information, Blue Card Services undertakes a thorough assessment which is underpinned by a robust decision-making framework.

Where a person's police information is concerning, Blue Card Services considers a broad range of information (e.g. police and court briefs, sentencing submissions, child protection information etc). When making a decision about an application, the welfare and best interests of a child are the paramount consideration.

Daily monitoring means that Blue Card Services can take immediate action if there is a concerning change in the person's Queensland criminal history. Where a blue card holder is charged with a disqualifying offence, their blue card is **immediately suspended**.

Where a blue card application is being processed and Blue Card Services receive police information from QPS that the person has a charge or conviction for a disqualifying offence, steps are taken to **immediately withdraw** the application.

In all cases, the person and any linked employers are notified of the withdrawal, suspension or cancellation and are advised that the person is prohibited from working with children and young people.

The following figures represent available data relating to the number of applications **withdrawn** or blue cards **cancelled** as a result of a disqualifying charge or conviction.

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number of applications immediately <b>withdrawn</b> upon notification from the Queensland Police that the applicant has a pending charge for a disqualifying offence:						
Applicants with a paid child-related activity type <b>(i.e. where the person can commence while their application is processing)</b>	1	1	1	2	2	8
Applicants with an unpaid child-related activity type <b>(i.e. where the person requires a blue card before they can commence)</b>	12	6	8	5	7	8
Number of applications immediately <b>withdrawn</b> upon notification from the Queensland Police that the applicant has a conviction for a disqualifying offence:						
Applicants with a paid child-related activity type <b>(i.e. where the person can commence while their application is processing)</b>	9	14	25	25	20	21
Applicants with an unpaid child-related activity type <b>(i.e. where the person requires a blue card before they can commence)</b>	38	47	59	52	58	40
Number of blue cards <b>cancelled</b> (following a suspension) after being finalised by a court by way of conviction:						
Applicants with a <i>paid employment</i> child-related activity type at the time of card cancellation	9	7	4	6	9	6
Applicants with an <i>unpaid</i> child-related activity type at the time of card cancellation	18	13	14	17	14	13
Applicants who were not engaged in any form of child-related work at the time of card cancellation	4	2	9	7	16	20