



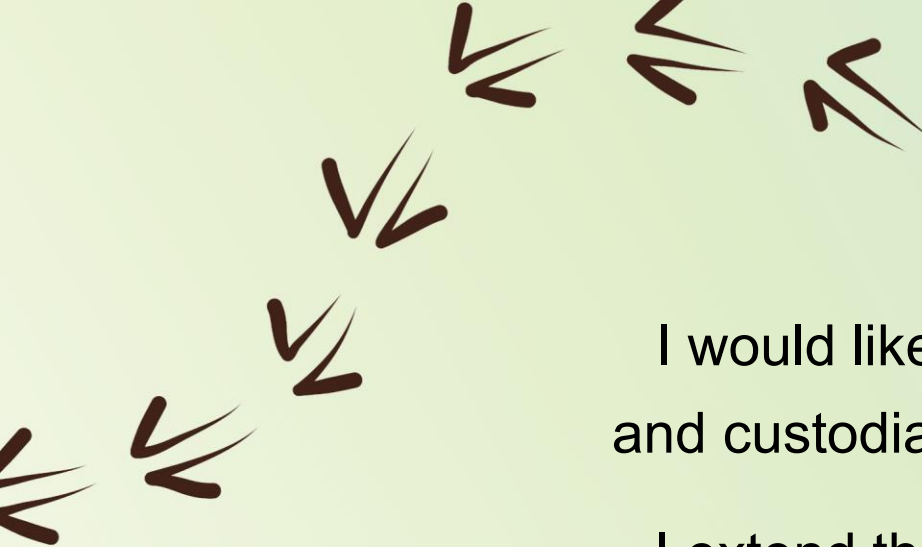
Australian Government
Department of Finance

National Approach to Care Worker Screening

Erin Cassie, Assistant Secretary

Volunteer-Involving-Organisation Webinar

21 September 2026



I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners
and custodians of the land in which we live and work.

I extend that acknowledgement to their continuing
connection to country, waters and community.

I pay my respects to elders past and present and
extend that respect to all Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander peoples where we are meeting
on Ngunnawal Country and on the call today.



Roots of Reconciliation artwork by Madison Walker



Meeting Outcomes

- Understand the Government scope
- The Care Worker Screening Taskforce (the Taskforce).
- Understand the reform direction.
- Understand the benefits of a national approach to care worker screening and share aspirations for the national model.
- What we have heard through industry engagement
- Survey Themes

Government scope

In November 2025, under the National Competition Policy's Federation Funding Agreement – Affordable housing, community Services and Other (NCP FFA), state and territory Treasurers collectively agreed to work together on the National Worker Screening Check project.

“The Commonwealth, building on existing reform considerations and in consultation with states and territories, leads development of a second-pass business case to leverage existing Commonwealth and state-owned databases and ICT infrastructure to enhance the safety and efficiency of worker screening in the care and support economy.”

The Commonwealth has decided to proceed by establishing a Taskforce to work with states and territories to develop the second-pass business case.

This will explore leverage existing Commonwealth and state-owned databases and ICT infrastructure to deliver a national worker screening check.

Work progressed to date on expanding NDIS worker screening to aged care will be combined with the Taskforce's work.

Why a national model

Public consultation in 2025 highlighted support for a national approach to care worker screening, with 32 of 45 submissions indicating support for a more coordinated approach.

Increase safety:

- By reducing fragmentation, streamlining requirements and enabling cross sector banning
- Introducing continuous and real-time monitoring of holder's checks
- Improving visibility and information sharing

A national model improves safety not just for vulnerable people, but also for employers, other care workers and volunteers.

Increase productivity

- A national worker screening model will deliver annual productivity benefits for workers and organisations through clearer application processes and reduced administrative costs.

Interaction with other work programs

The combined pass business case will need to articulate how to align and sequence existing work programs.

Working With Children Check

WWCC reforms led through the Standing Council of Attorneys-General will continue as agreed and will be a key step in the development of a national model.

National Continuous Checking Capability

Work led by the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission on the NCCC is also continuing, to be leveraged by the national model.

National Disability Insurance Scheme

The NDIS check will continue until the proposed single national model can be implemented.

Aged Care

The work done to date on expanding NDIS worker screening to aged care will be combined into the national worker screening model approach, to the greatest extent feasible.

Veterans Care

The Government may consider extending the single national model to Veterans Care in the future.

What we have heard through our industry engagement...



Top 5 survey themes to date

- 1. The dominant theme is duplication and fragmentation**
- 2. Complex identity verification requirements are a major barrier**
- 3. Digital exclusion emerged as one of the strongest concerns**
- 4. Delays in processing are affecting participation and service delivery.**
- 5. Administrative burden and compliance costs are significant**

Questions?

Please also reach out to:

CareSectorWorkerScreening@finance.gov.au

