SAES Police Checks
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
FOR VOLUNTEERS

JUNE 2024

I don't have a passport or an Australian licence. What other forms of ID can I use?
You can find a list of suitable points of ID on the Fit2Work website.

Common difficulties providing identifying documents for police check applications.
You might find that you do not have the necessary documents available for an Australian National Police Check. This can be a common difficulty for those who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, those who may have had a name change due to marriage (or other reasons), those who may be in Australia on a visa or are a refugee and for those who have lost documents over time.

If you cannot fulfil the suitable document requirements listed on the Fit2Work website, please contact integritycheckhelp@salvationarmy.org.au to assist you in this process.

Why do I need a police check?
Volunteers involved in emergency response and recovery activities often interact closely with disaster-affected individuals at times when people are at their most vulnerable and in places that are chaotic. A police check is essential to safeguarding the wellbeing of those we serve, our colleagues and the communities we engage with. It is a standard requirement within the emergency services sector and increasingly a government-required condition for our teams to work in their evacuation centres and recovery hubs.

Why is The Salvation Army implementing this?
This measure aligns with standard industry practices within the emergency services sector and enables us to continue working in government-run evacuation centres and recovery hubs.

I already have a police check with The Salvation Army and/or another organisation. Do I need to do another one?
If your police check is with The Salvation Army Australia and is valid, there is no need for a new one. Fit2Work will notify you when it's time for renewal. However, if you have a police check with a different organisation, you will need to complete a new police check specifically for The Salvation Army's SAES volunteer role.

I don't want to complete a police check. What can I do?
You have the option to opt out by adding your name here by Sunday 16 June. However, please note that without a current police check, you won't be able to volunteer in SAES response or recovery activities and your contact details will be removed from the SAES database. We encourage your cooperation to ensure our continued collaboration in the emergency services domain.

What happens if issues arise in my police check? Will I be automatically disqualified from volunteering?
Depending on what is disclosed in your police report, we may undertake a risk assessment and potentially adjust your activities.

What happens to my details once I provide them to Fit2Work. Are my details safe?
Fit2Work is committed to protecting your privacy. Fit2Work's background checking processes are governed by the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC), who maintain the confidentiality of information and ensure Fit2Work comply with the Australian Privacy Principles. All data transferred to and from Fit2Work is encrypted and utilise a software firewall to prevent intrusion.

Fit2Work's primary use of your details is conducting background checks. Any additional use serves to support the background check process. Your details are only shared with The Salvation Army, Fit2Work and official third parties who assist with the background checking process, such as State and Federal Police. Your details are only shared when necessary and you get to choose which documents are provided to Fit2Work. Click on the following links for more information about privacy:
- Fit2Work Privacy Collection Statement
- Equifax (Fit2Work's parent company) Privacy Policy

I have more questions. Who can I ask?
You are welcome to contact your SAES state coordinator or the SAES volunteer coordinator listed below:

SAES RESPONSE STATE COORDINATORS:
- Victoria – Carolyn Spratling: carolyn.spratling@salvationarmy.org.au
- NSW/ACT – Norm Archer: norm.archer@salvationarmy.org.au
- South and Central QLD – Adam Cole: adam.cole@salvationarmy.org.au
- North QLD – Shayni Maisel: shayni.maisel@salvationarmy.org.au
- WA – Benjamin Day: ben.day@salvationarmy.org.au
- TAS – Michael West: michael.west@salvationarmy.org.au
- SA/NT – Major Reno Elms: reno.elms@salvationarmy.org.au
- NT – Captain Neil Gray: neil.gray@salvationarmy.org.au