



FAQ (updated 20 August 2020)

Background checks

I'm having some issues with the police check. First, the web link isn't working, and second, it's asking me for more information about my volunteer role and organisation.

- The correct web link is www.policecheckexpress.com.au.
- You can further describe your volunteer role as "volunteer mentor". If you are associated with a local organisation, please provide the name of your local organisation. Otherwise, please email Stephanie Jones at stephanie.jones@crsi.org.au for further advice.

The mentoring application form specifies an Australian Federal Police Check - I'm guessing this should actually be what's termed a National Police Check? I just wanted to check whether it is the National Police Check that's required, in which case, I'll apply to my state police?

Yes, technically it's a National Police/Criminal History Check. We suggested going through www.policecheckexpress.com.au because you may be able to get a volunteer check faster and more cheaply than through your state police, but if you want to go through your state police (or already have one from them), that's fine.

I have a valid WWCC for another organisation, for a "no contact" position. Can I use it for the GMP?

You can use a valid WWCC for another organisation; however, the purpose should be an "unsupervised contact" position. If the purpose is a "no contact" position, you should apply for a new WWCC for an "unsupervised contact" position, which is subject to a higher level of scrutiny.

My state has extended the validity of WWCC due to COVID-19. Will this extension be accepted for the GMP?

Yes, we will accept these extensions. We are aware that the validity of WWCC has been extended in ACT (for WWCC expiring on or after 16 March 2020) and NSW (for WWCC expiring on or after 26 March 2020).

Why do we need background checks?

Refugees are often vulnerable, and mentors/sponsors are often in a position of trust and confidence in relation to them. Sponsor screening is a part of most existing community refugee sponsorship programs, and we have introduced it as part of the GMP with a view to building a future community refugee sponsorship program. We envision that if mentors/sponsors are thoroughly screened, trained and prepared at the beginning of the

program, this gives them and the refugees the best chance of a successful mentorship/sponsorship, and the most freedom to develop their relationship together going forward.

Mentor group eligibility criteria & expectations

Our group has 100+ members, but for the GMP, we have established a small subgroup of 5 members, whose details we will give in the application. Is that right?

For the GMP, we don't need details for all of your members, just those who will be most involved in the GMP. If that's 5 people, that's fine. However, if it's actually 6 or 10 people, please provide details for those additional people as well.

Do we need to consider a possible later SPONSOR ROLE if the proposed Sponsorship Program goes ahead? Does the support group need to consider a possible future support role, and financial commitments at this stage? If we cannot meet the \$18000-43000 financial support as a possible future sponsor, does it disqualify us as a likely GMP participant?

Given the lack of certainty about the availability and details of a future federal community sponsorship program, we are happy to receive applications from groups who are keen to be included in the GMP even if they are not able to commit to being involved in a future sponsorship arrangement. For CRSI and our partners, the process of training and supporting groups to become mentor groups (and following the progress of those groups) will be a valuable opportunity to refine our assumptions about a future sponsorship program and will help us develop the tools that are needed at a community level for a future sponsorship program, regardless of what happens next. That said, we do hope to find a few groups who are open to potentially taking this next step, should it be made available to them. In contemplating the costs involved in sponsorship, do bear in mind that individual members of sponsorship groups would not necessarily need to donate all of the funds themselves - sponsoring a refugee from overseas is a significant and exciting opportunity and community fundraising initiatives can be used to generate the necessary funds.