

Operation Tusk Fact Sheet 3: What is the NSW Child Protection Register?

The Child Protection Register is a confidential database of personal information about people who have been convicted of certain offences in relation to children. The *Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000* (NSW) requires these 'registrable persons' to report their details to police for a number of years.

The NSW Police Force uses the information in the Register to monitor and investigate offenders. The Register helps police to protect children from serious harm and assists in the early detection of offences by repeat child sex offenders. The Register cannot be accessed by members of the general public.

Which offenders are put on the Register?

Registrable persons include people who have been convicted of:

- sexual offences against or in relation to children;
- certain violent offences against children (eg murder or manslaughter), and/or
- offences involving 'child abuse material' (previously called child pornography).

The number of people on the Register is continually increasing. Between 2009 and 2019 the number of people on the Register increased by 83% (see graph opposite).

What are the consequences for a person who is placed on the Register?

Reporting to police

Once a person has been registered they must tell police whenever their personal details change, such as their address, employment, children they have contact with, or email addresses or internet user names they use. They also are required to tell police about any plans to travel interstate or overseas. These reporting

obligations generally apply for 8 or 15 years, but certain offenders are required to report to police for the rest of their lives. It is a criminal offence for a person to fail to comply with their reporting obligations unless they have a reasonable excuse.

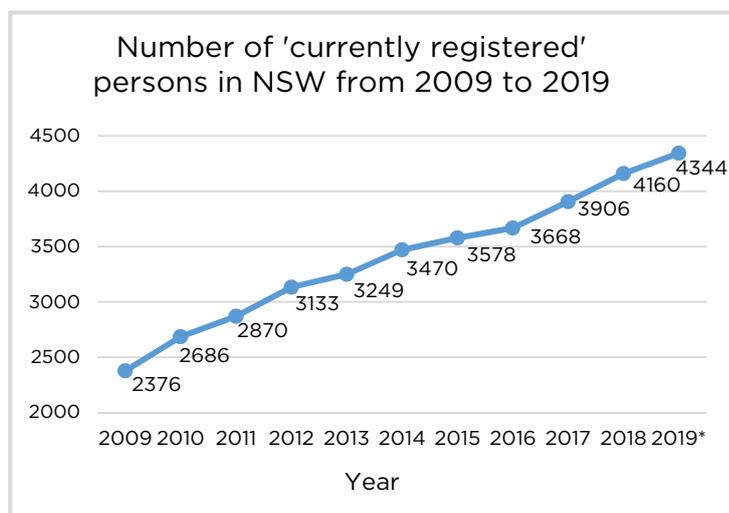
Restrictions on overseas travel

It is an offence under Commonwealth law for a registrable person who has reporting obligations to travel overseas without first getting permission from the NSW Police Force. A registrable person may also have their passport denied or cancelled.

Other restrictions and consequences

Other consequences of being on the Register include:

- restrictions on applying for name changes;
- restrictions on engaging in child-related work, and
- police are permitted to conduct unannounced inspections of the person's home to verify their personal information.



*The number of 'currently registered' persons for 2019 was 4,344 as at 31 August 2019. The data represented in this graph was drawn from information and documents produced by the NSW Police Force during Operation Tusk.