



## Sample Interview Questions and Red Flags

The following are some sample interview questions to assist you when you are employing or engaging someone to work with Children and/or Adults at Risk.

When interviewing Workers, it is recommended that the interviewer asks one (or more) of the following questions from **each** topic.

You should try to employ or engage persons whose answers to questions fall predominantly in the green column below – positive signs. While a person who has 1 or 2 answers that fall in the orange column – negative signs, may still be an appropriate choice to work with Children and Adults at Risk (possibly with additional support and training), you should think very carefully before employing or engaging a person whose answers fall into the “red flag” category.

Sample interview questions	Positive signs	Negative signs	“Red flags”
<b>Motivation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why did you decide to work with Children/Adults at Risk?</li> <li>Can you tell us about your recent experience of working with Children/Adults at Risk?</li> <li>What has working with Children/Adults at Risk taught you about yourself?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convincing response giving a balanced understanding of self and circumstance.</li> <li>Examples of having considered other options.</li> <li>A realistic appreciation of the challenges of working with Children/Adults at Risk.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Driven by personal needs, not the needs of others.</li> <li>Unrealistic impression of working with Children/Adults at Risk.</li> <li>Failure to consider other options.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shows a lack of understanding of a Child or Adult at Risk’s need for boundaries, or talk about unclear boundaries with Children/Adults, such as being friends with them.</li> <li>Shows no understanding of Children’s needs, expectations and perspectives.</li> <li>Demonstrates high unrealistic expectations of Children/Adults at Risk.</li> <li>Wants the role to meet their needs and not the Child/Adult’s needs.</li> <li>Uses inappropriate language when talking about Children/Adults at Risk.</li> <li>Vague about their experience with Children/Adults at Risk.</li> </ul>
<b>Recent employment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why did you leave your previous employment?</li> <li>Have you been the subject of an employer investigation?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A forthright answer with an explanation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resigned or dismissed from previous employment due to “personal reasons”.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disclosure of inappropriate behaviour.</li> <li>Cannot explain gaps or inconsistencies.</li> </ul>

Sample interview questions	Positive signs	Negative signs	“Red flags”
<p><b>Knowledge of Safeguarding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>If a parent or carer made a complaint or allegation about a fellow member of staff, what would you do?</i></li> <li><i>If you had concerns about a colleague with regards to his or her behaviour or attitude towards Children/Adults at Risk in his or her care, how will you deal with this?</i></li> <li><i>Safeguarding is an important part of our work. Can you give me some examples of how you would contribute to making the organisation a safer environment for Children and Adults at Risk?</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrates an understanding of the mandatory obligation to report allegations of abuse to either their supervisor, the NSW Police, NSW Office of the Children’s Guardian, Department of Communities and Justice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A vague understanding of reporting obligations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A lack of understanding of reporting obligations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Discipline</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Tell me about a time when a Child/Adult behaved in a way that caused you concern. How did you deal with that? Who else did you involve?</i></li> <li><i>Tell me about a time when you have been working with Children and your authority was seriously challenged. How did you react? What strategies did you employ to bring things back on course? With hindsight, how might you have improved your response?</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Calmly ask the Children to stop. Ask them to assist you in rectifying the concern or space, e.g. help you tidy up the area and put things away.</li> <li>Discuss the issue with the Children/Adult.</li> <li>Set up rules and boundaries and supervise the Children/Adults at Risk.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Let the behaviour continue because they are only Children.</li> <li>Physically stop the Children from misbehaviour (even if the Children can manage to stop themselves).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physically stop the Children from misbehaviour (even if the Children can manage to stop themselves).</li> <li>Use of physical force to discipline, e.g. smacking.</li> <li>Physically restrain a child/adult.</li> <li>Use of inappropriate language with Children/Adults at Risk.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Experience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>What experience do you have in working with Children/Adults from a First Nations and/or culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds?</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has relevant experience in, and is able to identify, particular needs and vulnerabilities of Children and Adults from a First Nations and/or culturally and linguistically diverse background.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A vague understanding of, or a lack of experience in, working with Children/Adults from a First Nations and/or culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A lack of understanding of cultural and linguistic diversity in Children/Adults.</li> </ul>