

**The *Working with Children Check* and You**  
**-- New Laws are now in Force --**

**All members who teach children under the age of 18 years are urged to act on the following advice as soon as possible.**

From **1st May 2011**, the law in NSW will require all self-employed studio music teachers who work with children under the age of 18 years to undergo a Working with Children check.

Previously, self-employed teachers were not able to have such a check and your Association welcomes this change, one that we have been discussing with the Commissioner for Young People since the *Commission for Children and Young People Act* was introduced in 2004.

**Your President and Council urge all members to very carefully read the information below. The obligation to undergo a Working with Children Check and receive a Certificate is on individual members of the MTA, not on the Association.**

**In summary:**

- download an application form from the Commission's website [www.kids.nsw.gov.au](http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au)
- complete the application and submit it at your local police station having first made an appointment with a police officer
- take along ID with your application
- pay the application of \$80
- renew your Certificate every three years
- advise the Association with the details of your Certificate including the number and date of issue and expiration.

The Commission has also confirmed that teachers who work in schools, for the BOS or AMEB will still need to apply for the Certificate because the checks that are made at these institutions are employer-based checks and applicable only for that one employer.

***Disclaimer*** *The MTA of NSW is not responsible for members who neglect or are unwilling to comply with the requirements of the legislation.*