Child Safety Officer

Qualification requirements

To be a Child Safety Officer you need to hold a bachelor degree from an accredited Australian tertiary institution or a comparable overseas qualification. For further details see Overseas Qualifications (over the page). A full transcript of your qualification is required with your application. There are two qualification pathways to becoming a Child Safety Officer:

Pathway 1
The following qualifications are acceptable:

- bachelor degree in:
  - social work (or social work majors with a practicum component)
  - human services or social welfare
  - psychology or behavioural science
- Master of Social Work (Qualifying)

Pathway 2
Other bachelor degrees are acceptable as long as you have completed a minimum of six subjects related to human services, psychology or behavioural science.

The guidelines used to assess if your degree meets the department’s requirements include:

- study in effective practice, which includes assessment and intervention skills for work with individuals, groups, families, organisations, communities and other social systems
- knowledge and skills to engage young people, children and families to facilitate assessments and guide them through change
- knowledge of child development, human behaviour and interaction, family dynamics, cultural factors and interpersonal violence within a human services setting and experience in assisting relationships
- knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and issues relating to overrepresentation in the child protection system

Applicants within pathway 2 are expected to also have either an additional qualification, or 12 months full-time (or equivalent part-time) relevant work experience.
Bachelor degrees that may provide the prerequisite study content (depending on chosen electives) include, but are not limited to, the following degrees:
- applied social sciences
- social sciences
- arts

Additional qualifications
Additional qualifications will be assessed on an individual basis, but should include the study of relevant subjects (e.g. child development, life span development, child and family violence, family dynamics and/or impacts of trauma).
Some examples of acceptable additional qualifications include:
- Graduate Certificate in Human Services (Child Protection)
- Advanced Diploma in Community Services Work
- Diploma of Statutory Child Protection
- Diploma of Youth Work

Relevant work experience
Examples include work experience in a relevant occupation (e.g. human services/case management oriented work; or work with children, young people, families, or disadvantaged groups, including areas of mental health and disability).

Suitability of degree subject content, additional qualifications and relevant work experience will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
*If you have previously worked as a Child Safety Officer with the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, you have automatic eligibility to re-apply for the role.

Overseas qualifications
Applicants with an overseas qualification will be considered if the qualification has been assessed as comparable to a relevant Australian qualification. Academic transcripts and evidence of qualification assessment must be submitted with your application. The following organisations can undertake an assessment of overseas qualifications:

Queensland Government Overseas qualification recognition
T: 1300 363 079

Department of Education and Training
Qualification assessment
(Queensland residents only)
T: 1300 369 935

Child Safety Officer induction and professional development

Newly appointed Child Safety Officers (including returning officers) participate in a mandatory training program designed to develop specific knowledge and skills relevant to child protection practitioners. The program builds upon foundation knowledge, skills and practical experience gained in an undergraduate degree. The program incorporates specialist modules that address the various specialties within the field of child protection; this is beneficial for the more experienced practitioner and their ongoing professional development. Training delivery is flexible, modular and uses various learning mediums, including online and face-to-face training.

To find out more about your eligibility to apply for the role, request a qualification check from the CSO Recruitment Team via our Recruitment Portal.