Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check vs. Australian Federal Police Check – what's the difference?

AFP Police Checks · https://workerchecks.com/docs/nationally-coordinated-criminal-history-check-vs-australian-federal-police-check-whats-the-difference/

Both a Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check (NCCHC) and an Australian Federal Police (AFP) Check report on an individual's criminal history in Australia — but they're issued by different authorities and used for different purposes. Many people comparing these checks are deciding whether to order a national police check for employment, licensing or onboarding.

Knowing which check you need ensures your application meets the correct compliance standard.

Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check (NCCHC)

Also known as a **national police check**, this is the most commonly requested background check in Australia. It's processed by **ACIC-accredited bodies** such as Worker Checks and accesses police records from **all Australian jurisdictions**.

When to use an NCCHC

- Employment, licensing, or volunteer purposes
- NDIS and Aged Care workforce screening
- Rideshare and transport checks (e.g. Uber, Ola, DiDi)
- Corporate onboarding and compliance
- Tenancy, rental, and personal background screening

Worker Checks NCCHC features

- **ACIC-accredited** and accepted nationwide
- 100% online — no paper forms
- **Digital certificate** securely delivered via your Worker Checks portal

- **Fast results** — 80% of checks are returned within 1–3 minutes
- Cost: **$52.00**

Apply for a national police check ›

Australian Federal Police (AFP) Check

An **AFP Check** is issued directly by the **Australian Federal Police** and is required only in specific cases, such as **Commonwealth employment** or **visa and immigration** purposes.

When to use an AFP Check

- Commonwealth Government employment
- Visa or immigration applications (Home Affairs requirement)
- Overseas adoption or citizenship requests
- Aviation or maritime security clearances

AFP Check details

- Processed only by the AFP
- Typical turnaround ≈ **7 business days**

Worker Checks doesn't currently offer AFP checks. You can apply directly with the Australian Federal Police.

Quick comparison

Feature	Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check (NCCHC)	Australian Federal Police (AFP) Check
Issued by	ACIC via accredited bodies (e.g. Worker Checks)	Australian Federal Police
Purpose	General employment and screening	Commonwealth employment, visa and immigration
Coverage	All state and territory police records	National and federal agency records

Feature	Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check (NCCHC)	Australian Federal Police (AFP) Check
Processing time	**80% within 1–3 minutes** (via Worker Checks)	≈ 7 business days
Cost (approx.)	$52.00	Set by the AFP
Delivery	Digital certificate via Worker Checks portal	AFP email or postal certificate

Not sure which check you need?

If you're unsure whether you need an NCCHC or an AFP Check, our support team can guide you. Start a chat and type "Talk to human", or email ask@workerchecks.com for quick advice.

Related checks and compliance services

National Police Check

Fast, ACIC-accredited online clearance.

BusinessHub – Bulk Worker Checks

Bulk billing, live tracking and secure portals.

VEVO Right to Work Check

Instant visa work-rights verification.

Bankruptcy & Insolvency Check

Real-time AFSA financial history checks.

International Police Check

Overseas criminal history screening.

Qualification Verification

Verify degrees, certificates and training.