

8 August 2024

Mr Adrian Tantari MP
Chair, Community Support and Services Committee
Parliament House George Street Brisbane Qld 4000

By email: CSSC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Tantari

RE: Correction: *Child Safe Organisations Bill 2024 Report No. 47 (July 2024)*

Thank you for the opportunity to address Anglicare Southern Queensland's concerns regarding an error in the recent *Child Safe Organisations Bill 2024 Report* (the *Report*, tabled 2 August 2024).

I write with reference to a view attributed to Anglicare in our submission to the Inquiry (Submission No. 10).

Our concerns relate to the section of the *Report* about personal liability for the head of an entity, which states as follows (p. 20):

Anglicare Southern Queensland expressed support for the personal liability of the head of an entity, and the inclusion of clauses that refer to reasonable excuse and a head of entity's being 'reasonably able to investigate', which is expected to allow a less rigid application of the legislation pending the circumstances.

This is in fact incorrect.

Anglicare *noted* the introduction of personal liability for the head of an entity. We support the inclusion of clauses regarding 'reasonable excuses' and the head of entity's being 'reasonably able to investigate' to mitigate against possible unintended detrimental impacts that could arise from rigid application of the legislation. Our actual wording is below:

Anglicare supports the use of proportionate measures and penalties to ensure accountability for any misconduct against children.

We do note the introduction of personal liability for the head of an entity, as follows:

An offence applies to the head of an entity if they fail to notify the Commission of a reportable allegation or reportable conviction...

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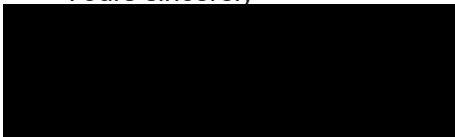
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While we recognise that introducing such an offence is to improve accountability, we are pleased to note the inclusion of clauses that refer to a 'reasonable excuse for the head of an entity to not comply with the reporting requirements' and a head of entity's being 'reasonably able to investigate'. Such inclusions acknowledge that there may be detrimental unintended consequences from a rigid application of the legislation in relation to penalties.

Thank you again for providing the opportunity for us to correct the record, and for publication of this correspondence on the Inquiry webpage.

Yours sincerely



Susan M Cooke

Chief Executive Officer