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## **Robbie Katter MP** Member for Traeger



December 4, 2018

Leanne Linard MP  
Committee Chair  
Education, Employment and Small Business Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane, QLD, 4820

Dear Ms Linard,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Question on Notice directed to me during my address on the Working with Children Legislation (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill 2018, to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee on November 14, 2018.

I understand the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee is now assessing this Bill.

The Question on Notice that I took was: "How many applications from the (Indigenous) communities up there have been made and knocked back?"

In response to this I can provide the following, limited information.

Please note that specific details, including the percentage of Blue Card applications from Indigenous Queenslanders that have been knocked back, and the reasons for these knock backs, were not available to my office at the time of writing this letter.

Between 2001 and December, 2015 in Queensland:

- 15, 500 blue cards were issued to applicants who identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, and who resided in remote communities.

The remote communities include Woorabinda, Cherbourg, Palm Island, Doomadgee, Yarrabah, Mossman, Mapoon, Napranum, Thursday Island, Seisia, Bamaga, Injinoo, New Mapoon, Umagico, Coen, Mornington Island, Kowanyama, Pormpuraaw, Aurukun, Lockhart River, Wujal Wujal and Hope Vale.

Additional information about applications lodged by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) people is available from a review of the Blue Card system, published in July, 2017.

Key figures relating to blue card applications by ATSI applicants, over the five years to 2015-16, are provided below:

- 17.8% of applications from ATSI applicants are withdrawn, which is twice the rate of total applicants:
  - 53% of withdrawn applications from ATSI applicants were withdrawn due to failure to respond to a request for information
  - 48% of appeals to QCAT by ATSI applicants that received a negative notice were withdrawn, compared to 38% for all applicants.

I trust that this information will be of use to you and the committee, and please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you need anything further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robbie Katter', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Robbie Katter**  
Member for Traeger