

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 November 2018 12:17 PM  
**To:** Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee <lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Working with Children Legislation (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill 2018

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Good Afternoon,

Please find below CHQ's response. Approved by the Health Service Chief Executive.

Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service (CHQ HHS) acknowledges that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are the youngest people from the longest living cultures in the world with rich traditions, lore and customs that have been passed down from generation to generation. They grow up with a strong connection to family, community and country, and are the future of their culture and the carriers and keepers of their stories. The health, wellbeing and safety of all children is of utmost importance.

CHQ HHS is taking a leadership role in ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families have access to high quality health care which prioritises their cultural, emotional and spiritual needs.

We welcome the amendments to the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening Act 2000) to provide a new Blue Card framework that empowers Indigenous communities to make decisions which best serve their interests in relation to child protection and employment of community members. Overcoming existing barriers through enabling more flexibility for unique circumstance will benefit Indigenous communities across Queensland.

Specifically, the challenge for implementation will be in balancing community expectations (and or insider kinship knowledge) with the need to support job seekers in Indigenous Communities whilst continuing to protect the interests of children. The proposed changes are supported however it is important to ensure effective governance and accountability structures and mechanisms are in place to ensure the system is safe and effective.

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Kind regards

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**Children's Health Queensland**

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