



Department of Justice and Attorney-General  
Office of the Director-General

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Health, Communities, Disability Services and  
Domestic Family Violence Prevention Committee  
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Dear Ms Linard

At the joint briefing by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS) on the Director of Child Protection Litigation Bill 2016 (the DCPL Bill) and the Child Protection Reform Amendment Bill 2016, the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic Family Violence Prevention Committee (the Committee) sought further details on a number of matters.

As agreed with DCCSDS, I will respond to the matters raised that directly concern the DCPL Bill and DCCSDS will respond to the remaining matters.

The Committee sought clarification about the type of data the Director of Child Protection Litigation (DCPL) will be required to capture and report on.

Under clause 40 of the Bill, the DCPL is required to give an annual report on the administration of the Act to the Minister. The annual report must include a copy of each guideline made under section 39 that was in force during that year and any action taken during the year in response to a report given by a Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel under the *Child Protection Act 1999*.

A set of performance indicators is currently being developed for the DCPL and a number of mechanisms have also been identified to monitor and assess the performance of the DCPL. The indicators are currently being finalised but are likely to include the requirement for the DCPL to report on data such as:

- the number of briefs referred to the DCPL from DCCSDS;
- the number and type of applications made to the Childrens Court; and
- compliance with timeframes provided for in the guidelines issued by the DCPL.

The collection of information relevant to ongoing performance monitoring will be built into the business procedures of the DCPL. These measures will facilitate continuous improvement to business practices of the DCPL and the proposed substantive evaluations of the DCPL's performance in 2017-18 and 2022-23. They will also inform the statutory review of the *Director of Child Protection Litigation Act 2016* (once enacted) and the operations of the Office of the DCPL which is required to be conducted as soon as practicable after the end of five years after the commencement of the clause 41 of the Bill.

The Committee also sought clarification about the anticipated costs of the Office of the DCPL. The Office of the DCPL has approved Government funding of \$19.068 million (for operational and corporate support costs) over the 2016-17 to 2018-19 financial years.

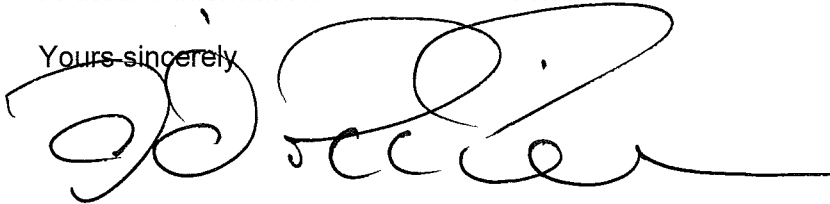
(2)

The Committee also requested data on the number of child protection orders made including trends. The table below shows the number of child protection orders made in Queensland for the period from 2009-10 to 2014-15.<sup>1</sup>

<b>Child Protection Orders Made in Queensland, 2009-10 to 2014-15<sup>2</sup></b>						
	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
Child Protection Order	1,647	2,972	2,830	3,022	2,713	2,555
Revoke and make new order	35	213	153	93	90	88
Extend Child Protection Order	32	108	41	52	31	24
Interim Child Protection Order <sup>3</sup>	6,132	10,897	12,414	12,395	11,061	10,499
Vary Child Protection Order	1	12	31	67	64	62
Transfer Child Protection Order/Proceeding from Qld <sup>4</sup>	n/a	2	3	9	2	8

I trust this information will assist the Committee in its consideration of the Bill.

Yours sincerely



David Mackie  
Director-General

<sup>1</sup> This data is sourced from the Queensland Wide Inter-linked Courts (QWIC) system which is a "live" operational system in which records are updated as the status of court matters change (for example, as a result of a Court of Appeal decision) and/or input errors are detected and rectified. This constant updating and data verification may result in a slight variance of figures over time.

<sup>2</sup> The figures do not accurately reflect the number of child protection order files opened at any one time but are indicative of the volume of work. This is because in an application for a child protection order a Court may make one or more interim orders, a final order, a variation order or transfer order. Some matters may therefore be recorded more than once. Also, a child protection order application may proceed without any order being made and be dismissed at final hearing, therefore not being recorded at any of the data collection points in this table.

<sup>3</sup> A new interim child protection order is made at each mention of a matter.

<sup>4</sup> Data was not collected electronically for this item in 2009-10.