

Your Ref:
Our Ref: PD rw
Date: 4 October 2016

Telephone:
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The Research Director
Health, Communities, Disability Services and
Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee
Parliament House
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Dear Research Director

Adoption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016

Thank you for providing Legal Aid Queensland with an opportunity to make a submission regarding the Adoption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016

Legal Aid Queensland provides input into government policy development and law reform processes to advance its organisational objectives, seeking to offer policy input that is constructive and based on the experience of its lawyers in the day to day application of the law in courts and tribunals

Legal Aid Queensland supports the amendments contained in the Bill to broaden persons eligible to adopt a child to include same-sex couples, single persons and persons currently undergoing fertility treatment. Legal Aid Queensland also notes that clause 33, which clarifies that face to face contact between birth parents and a child can occur during interim orders as per an agreed adoption plan for the child, will help to ensure ongoing contact for birth parents in appropriate circumstances

In addition, Legal Aid Queensland notes that there may be a consequential effect on the *Adoption Act 2009* and adoption practices in Queensland due to the current review of the *Child Protection Act 2009* and the recommendation contained in the Final Report of the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry 2013 that Child Safety routinely consider and pursue adoption in cases where reunification is not feasible

If you have any inquiries, please contact Craig May, Senior Policy Officer, Legal Aid Queensland on [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Paul Davey
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Legal Aid Queensland