

Queensland Police Union of Employees

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6 September 2017

Leanne Linard MP
Member for Nudgee
Chair
Health, Communities, Disability Services, Domestic and
Family Violence Prevention Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane 4000

Via E-mail: hcdsdfvpc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Leanne

Re: Consultation on the Child Protection Reform Amendment Bill 2017

I write to thank you for your invitation seeking the Queensland Police Union's ("QPU") views as part of your consultation role in relation to the above Bill.

As you would be aware, as the General President of the QPU, I represent over 11,500 police, and others including watchhouse officers and police liaison officers. These officers and support staff cover the entire of Queensland, including remote ATSI communities, which will particularly benefit from the proposed amendments in the Bill.

The QPU generally supports the Bill and believes it will give effect to key recommendations of the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry. In particular the QPU believes the proposed changes will assist in promoting the safer and more culturally sensitive care of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children at risk in our community.

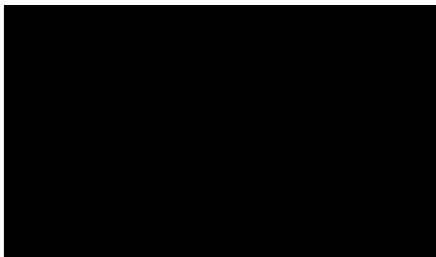
The QPU advocates the sharing of information between Government agencies to allow a coordinated and appropriate response to situations. It believes the provisions which will extend information sharing to approved specialist service providers will further enhance child safety. The sharing of information between relevant stakeholders, in the experience of the QPU, allows developing at-risk situations to be identified and preventative measures to be adopted at an earlier stage. The QPU believes the proposed safe guards are adequate to ensure any information shared remains confidential and is used for the proper purposes.

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The provisions which will allow the Chief Executive to provide information to the Police Commissioner in circumstances where my members are investigating the death of a child will be most beneficial, in that it will allow the police to provide a more comprehensive brief to the Coroner.

I am available on 3259 1900 should you wish to discuss this matter further. Generally I am pleased to support the Bill.

Yours Faithfully



IAN LEAVERS
GENERAL PRESIDENT & CEO