



6 September 2017

Committee Secretary
Health, Communities, Disability Services, and Domestic and Violence Prevention
Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

By email: hcdsdfvpc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Secretary,

Submission on the *Child Protection Reform Amendment Bill 2017*

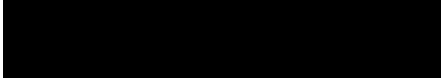
Thank you for providing the opportunity to make a submission on the proposed amendments to the *Child Protection Reform Amendment Bill 2017 (Bill)*. We welcome any steps to insure the best interests and rights of the child are further enshrined in Queensland Legislation.

The LGTBI Legal Service (**Service**) exists to advocate for the rights of LGBTI people, especially children, and as such limits this submission to addressing the purpose of the Bill.

The Service would seek to have an additional general principle added to section 5B of the *Child Protection Act 1999 (Act)*. That being, that a child should have access to services that that respect their differences, wherever possible, and takes into account a child or young person's race, ancestry, place of origin, citizenship, family diversity, disability, sex, and; importantly from the perspective of the Service, their sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. The Service considers that the inclusion of this general principle would be in a similar vein of to the principle at section 5B(m).

The purpose is to ensure that rights of children who are sex or gender diverse are also paramount. As we know, from both research¹ and the experiences of the Service's clients, childhood for LGBTI youth can be an extremely difficult time where they often face issues unique to the LGBTI community. There is an opportunity for the Queensland Parliament to address these issues within this Bill and we encourage the Government to incorporate our suggestion.

Kind regards,


Thomas Clark
Law Reform Director
LGBTI Legal Service Inc.

¹ Patrick, Bell, Huang, Lazarakis, & Edwards, 2013

