



9 April 2018

Committee Secretary  
HCDSDFVPC  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000  
Email: [health@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:health@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill 2018**

Aged and Disability Advocacy (ADA) Australia is a not-for-profit, independent, community-based advocacy and education service with more than 25 years' experience in supporting and improving the wellbeing of older people and people with disability.

ADA Australia provides advocacy support to recipients of Queensland Community Care Services and Commonwealth funded aged care services. ADA Australia is a member of the Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) and receives funding under the National Aged Care Advocacy Program (NACAP) to deliver advocacy, information and education services. ADA Australia also has an established Guardianship Advocacy Service which supports people with a decision-making disability and people aged over 65 years, to express their views, wishes and preferences at QCAT and in relation to guardianship, administration and Enduring Power of Attorney matters.

ADA Australia is supportive of the broad objectives of the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill 2018 (the Bill), which will enable Queensland to progress its commitment to nationally consistent worker screening under the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Framework.

ADA Australia, considers the introduction of comprehensive and nationally consistent worker screening to be an important element in ensuring the safety of NDIS recipients.

121 Copperfield Street Geebung Qld 4034 [www.adaaustralia.com.au](http://www.adaaustralia.com.au)

**FREECALL: 1800 818 338** p: (07) 3637 6000  
f: (07) 3637 6001 e: [info@adaaustralia.com.au](mailto:info@adaaustralia.com.au)

ADA Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this land and pays respect to Elders, past and present.  
Aged and Disability Advocacy Australia trading as ADA Australia | ACN: 610 892 398 | ABN: 19 488 136 200



ADA Australia notes that the Australian Law Reform Commission's (ALRC) Report 131, Elder Abuse - A National Legal Response (2017), recommends the introduction of a national employment screening process for Commonwealth-regulated aged care (Recommendation 4.9).

ADA Australia suggests that with the Commonwealth's increased focus on improving the quality of aged care services and preventing and responding to elder abuse, it is likely that this ALRC recommendation will be actioned in the foreseeable future.

The ALRC (2017, 4.159) also suggests that "as far as practicable, the process for screening workers in the aged care, disability and child sectors should be compatible". ADA Australia agrees with this proposal.

It is expected that the aged and disability sectors may need to share their workforce as the demand for support services increases. This is particularly already the case in rural and regional areas, as these sectors find it difficult to recruit staff. A compatible and streamlined employment screening process would aid this process, reduce compliance costs and help to alleviate pressures on both sectors. This would result in a greater availability of a "safe and screened" workforce.

ADA Australia encourages the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee to consider the need for legislation that supports compatible cross sector workforce screening, that dovetails into the future aged care workforce reforms. At a minimum, screening arrangements must be mutually recognised.

Please don't hesitate to contact myself on 07 3637 6000 or [Geoff.Rowe@adaaustralia.com.au](mailto:Geoff.Rowe@adaaustralia.com.au) should you have any further questions regarding the content of this letter.

Yours Sincerely,



Geoff Rowe  
Chief Executive Officer  
Aged and Disability Advocacy Australia

