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Submission No. 1
Family Responsibilities Commission
ABN: 8082 7633 604
Cairns Commonwealth Centre
Level 3, 107 Lake Street, Cairns
PO Box 5438, Cairns Qld 4870
Ph: 07 4057 3870
Fax: 07 4041 0974
www.frcq.org.au

19 September 2012

Health and Community Services Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000



Dear Committee Members

FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL 2012

The Commission would like to respond with comments on the above Bill as follows.

The Commission supports in its entirety:

- Clause 1: Act to be sited as the *Family Responsibilities Commission Amendment Act 2012*.
- Clause 2: Act to amend the *Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008*
- Clause 3: proposed amendment to s123 altering the previous provision stipulating that all board members must be present at board meetings, to a quorum of two members to be present at board meetings
- Clause 4: proposed amendment to s152 which will extend the expiration of the Act from 1 January 2013 to 1 January 2014
- Clause 5: proposed amendment to s155 which will extend the vacation of the Commissioners and Board members from 1 January 2013 to 1 January 2014
- Clause 6: proposed amendment of s156 to preserve the life of agreements or orders for the life of the order or until 1 January 2014 (whichever is the earliest)

Further, the Commission supports the objective of the Bill which is to ensure that the operations of the Family Responsibilities Commission are extended by 12 months. The extension of the trial will assist the Commission to build upon the achievements gained since 2008 in the communities of Aurukun, Coen, Hope Vale and Mossman Gorge. The above amendments will not only facilitate the continued operation of the Commission until January 2014, but will also improve the efficiency of the Family Responsibilities Board to meet legislative requirements.

Yours sincerely

David Glasgow
Commissioner
Family Responsibilities Commission