

Trevor Ruthenburg MP
Chair, Health and Community Services Committee
Parliament House
George St
Brisbane QLD 4000
hcsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

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Dear Mr Ruthenburg

Red Hill 4059

Ph: (07) 3872 2222
Fax: (07) 3856 4727

amaq@amaq.com.au

ACN: 009 660 280
ABN: 17 009 660 280

RE: AMA Queensland's response to Child Protection Bills

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on changes to the child protection system, in particular, changes effected by the *Child Protection Reform Amendment Bill 2014* which alter the mandatory reporting requirements of medical practitioners. As AMA Queensland's role does not extend to expertise in the child protection system, we will be confining our response to the changes which impact directly on medical practice.


AMA Queensland notes the recommendation 4.1 of the Carmody Inquiry report, 'Taking Responsibility: A Roadmap for Queensland Child Protection', recommends that the definition of a child in need of protection be altered, and also that mandatory reporting requirements be consolidated into the *Child Protection Act 1999*.

We also note that recommendation 4.6 of the Inquiry report recommends that mandatory reporters should be allowed to discharge reporting obligations through reporting to alternative community-based organisations.

AMA Queensland notes that the changes proposed in the *Child Protection Reform Amendment Bill 2014* adequately reflect this intention and will provide medical practitioners with greater scope to use their professional judgment when making a mandatory report.

AMA Queensland is supportive of these changes. We note the further recommendation of the Carmody Inquiry that further education and training regarding when a report should be made should be provided to mandatory reporters. AMA Queensland echoes this concern and looks forward to seeing the rollout of these new education measures and appropriate guidelines for practitioners.

AMA Queensland also notes that the *Public Guardian Bill 2014* abolishes the Adult Guardian and replaces it with the Public Guardian who will act on behalf of both adults and children. AMA Queensland notes that the functions of the Adult Guardian are being administered well and anticipates that this will not change under the new scheme.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these issues. If you have any further questions or would like to discuss the matter further, please contact Erica Judd on 07 3872 2222 or at 

Yours sincerely,



Dr Shaun Rudd
President-Elect
Australian Medical Association Queensland