



## ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN QUEENSLAND INC.

Peak Body for Sexual Violence, Women's Health and Domestic & Family Violence Services

11 April 2016

Acting Committee Secretary  
 Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee  
 Parliament House George Street Brisbane Qld 4000  
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 Submitted via email: [lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

### **EVAWQ Submission to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee - Court and Civil Legislation Amendment Bill 2017**

The Ending Violence Against Women Queensland Inc. (EVAWQ) is the only peak in Australia that provides a united and representative statewide voice for Sexual Violence, Women's Health and Domestic and Family Violence Services. The Ending Violence Against Women Queensland Inc. (EVAWQ) Peak Body provides the following submission with on the whole support for each of the proposals detailed in the - **Court and Civil Legislation Amendment Bill 2017**.

In addition, EVAWQ recommends that the intent of all amendments be consistent with the Preamble of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012.

#### ***Objectives of the Bill***

The principal purposes of the Bill are to amend legislation within the justice portfolio to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the courts and agencies and clarify, strengthen and update the relevant legislation.

The Bill provides for amendments to:

- Streamline various court and tribunal processes and clarify court powers and jurisdiction.  
*AGREE*
- Increase the age limit for acting magistrates to 75 years.  
*AGREE*
- Provide for enhanced equity and clarity as to the basis of payments from the Appeal Costs Fund (ACF)  
*AGREE*
- Make Queensland's classification legislation consistent with national scheme legislation  
*AGREE*
- Modernise the eligibility requirements for the chief executive officer (CEO) of Legal Aid Queensland (LAQ)  
*AGREE*
- Strengthen the Ombudsman's functions and powers in the interests of enhanced integrity and accountability and the protection of complainants and witnesses  
*AGREE*

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- Facilitate the making of domestic violence notations on a person's criminal history or a formal record of conviction

*AGREE*

- Clarify the functions and powers of the Public Guardian in relation to a relevant child under the *Child Protection Act 1999* (Child Protection Act)

*AGREE*

- Clarify, update and strengthen legislation for the regulation of the legal profession

*AGREE*

- Expand secrecy provisions and facilitate disclosure of personal information in certain cases

*AGREE*

- Limit the effect of statutory instruments in relation to contracts or dealings concerning property

*AGREE*

- Give permanent effect to a transitional regulation under the *Retail Shop Leases Act 1994* (RSL Act) and correct an inadvertent omission from the *Retail Shop Leases Amendment Act 2016* (RSLA Act)

*AGREE*

- In place of various requirements for the publication of matters and notices in the Queensland Government Gazette (gazette), allow for online website notifications

*AGREE*

- Clarify when the stepchild relationship ends (for family provision applications) and revoke certain dispositions in a will upon the end of a de facto relationship

*AGREE*

- Remove the requirement that the delegation of the administration of a trust is to be made by power of attorney executed as a deed, and

*DISAGREE*

- Remove redundant legislation and make minor and technical amendments of a correcting or clarifying nature.

*AGREE*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission.



**Linda-Ann Northey**  
President, EVAWQ