



PeakCare

Queensland Inc.

The Research Director
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

1 February 2016

Dear Sir / Madam

Re: Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2015

PeakCare Qld Inc. (PeakCare) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2015 introduced into the Queensland Parliament on 1 December 2015 by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills, the Hon Yvette D'Ath MP.

PeakCare is a peak body for child and family services in Queensland. Across Queensland, PeakCare has 61 members, which are a mix of small, medium and large, local and statewide, mainstream and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander non-government organisations that provide family support, child protection, and out-of-home care services (e.g. foster and kinship care, residential care) to children and young people who are at risk of entry to or in the statutory child protection system and their families. In addition, PeakCare's membership includes a network of 23 individual members and other entities supportive of PeakCare's policy platform about the safety and wellbeing of children and young people, and the support of their families.

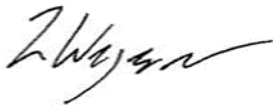
PeakCare's interest in this amendment Bill stems from the intersection of family support and child protection and domestic and family violence. As the Committee would be aware, current or past domestic and family violence is often in the mix of presenting issues for parents, children and young people in contact with statutory and community-based family support and child protection services.

PeakCare supports the Queensland Government's acceptance of the recommendations contained in the report of the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland, *Not Now, Not Ever: Putting an End to Domestic Violence in Queensland* and the development and implementation of responses to the recommendations aimed at achieving a Queensland that is free of domestic and family violence. To this end, in late 2015, PeakCare made a submission to the Queensland Government's draft *Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2015 to 2025*.

In supporting the objectives of the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2015, PeakCare indicates its strong support for the imperative that those who perpetrate domestic and family violence are held to account for their offending and recognises that legislative responses are an important element in developing the required culture of intolerance for violence across Queensland communities.

If you require further information, please contact me on [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Lindsay Wegener (Mr)
Executive Director
PeakCare Queensland Inc.

