



3 December 2013

Child Protection (Offender Reporting  
Submission 001

Research Director  
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE Q 4000

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Amendment Bill 2013**

We refer to Mr Ian Berry's letter dated 4 November 2013 seeking Submissions in relation to the above-mentioned Bill and offer the following comments.

We strongly believe that the focus should be on ensuring that Corrections, Probation and Parole are resourced adequately so as to work effectively with the Queensland Police Service to minimise the risk of offender recidivism. These officers have the experience, expertise and working knowledge of the client group and are best placed to provide input to the Queensland Police Service in relation to concerns about potential offender breaches.

This approach would provide a much greater level of community comfort in the knowledge that registered offenders are being closely monitored to reduce the likelihood of re-offending and assisted to gain support needed for their rehabilitation.

Whilst PACT is supportive of Police having greater powers to investigate child related offences, we are not convinced that the strengthening of Police powers to conduct random audits is the best way to address breaches. The Police are already under-resourced with ever increasing responsibilities and this approach places unrealistic workloads on current Officers. It would appear that the timing of Police undertaking random searches is too late and is likely to be after an offence has occurred and a child has been victimised. By directing resources to improving the transfer of information between the key stakeholders identified above, the risk of offender recidivism is likely to be managed more effectively.

There may be a range of other options that should be considered rather than placing all the onus on the Queensland Police Service.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to provide input into this valuable legislation and to working collaboratively with the Queensland Government to ensure that the needs of vulnerable children and young people are met.

Yours sincerely

Alexandra Marks  
Chairperson

Jo Bryant  
Chief Executive Officer

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**PACT's Vice Regal Patron:** Her Excellency, Ms Penelope Wensley, AC, Governor of Queensland

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