

Page 1 of 2

COEN JUSTICE GROUP

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16th August 2017

Submission on Mr Katters Bill to amend the Blue Card application.

We the Coen Justice Group are strongly supportive
of this bill.

We are very confident our ability to manage this
process in a good and efficient manner.

This Justice Group has a strong focus on child
wellbeing matters, many of our efforts in this
regard are made much harder by the complexities
and slow time frame of blue card approvals.

In particular the difficulties of obtaining
timely blue card approvals for relative foster
carers has on occasion resulted in the removal
of children from the community in spite of the
fact that persons of good character were willing
to act as foster carers for the child. This has
clearly resulted in harm to the child.

We feel that our ability to assess the suitability
of persons is much better than that of distant
functionaries.

We are however uncertain if all Justice Groups
are as well prepared as we are.

We suggest that the following ideas be
considered.

Page 2 of 2

That no Justice Group be required to act in this capacity unless they agree to do so.

That a local community based panel be asked if they are of the opinion the local Justice Group has the capacity.

The panel could consist of representatives from the local police, the health provider, child safety and the magistrate for that area.

This bill if implemented will be a major step to empowering indigenous communities to take responsibility for child safety matters, many previous actions have disempowered communities with very bad results.

Signed



Rhys Gardiner Coordinator

May Kepple JP OAM Chairperson.

