

Question on Notice

No. 943

Asked on 13 October 2015

Ms Farmer asked the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (MS FENTIMAN)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise how community members from the Bulimba Electorate and across Queensland can have their input into the review of Queensland's adoption laws to share their experiences and ideas to better support children and families?

ANSWER

The introduction of the *Adoption Act 2009* represented major reform to adoption legislation in Queensland. To help the Palaszczuk Government consider the impacts the Act has had on parties to adoption and families over the last five years, we want to hear from community members across Queensland.

The discussion paper, *Public consultation for the review of the operation of the Adoption Act 2009*, is available on the Queensland Government's 'Get Involved' consultation website (www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au). The discussion paper explains the key areas of the legislation being reviewed and presents questions to start the conversation with Queenslanders about the review.

During the review, the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services will listen to and work with the community and individuals touched by adoption to make sure everyone who wants to contribute, can.

Queenslanders can share their views by completing a short survey online at 'Get Involved'. In addition, individuals or organisations can provide a submission to the review by email or letter to the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services.

I am pleased to advise we have already received over 70 responses to the survey available on the 'Get Involved' website, with individuals sharing their views and personal experiences of adoption in Queensland. I thank those individuals for their valuable input.

I encourage all those interested to go online, read the discussion paper and share their views and ideas about Queensland's adoption legislation.

Many people have different experiences of adoption, and for some, the experience is highly sensitive. Individuals who would benefit from support or speaking with someone about their experience, can contact Adoption Services on 07 3170 4600 or 1300 914 819 (free call within Queensland).

Further information about how community members can engage in the review of the Act can be found at the Queensland Government's at 'Get Involved', or on the department's website.