

Question on Notice

No. 118

Asked on 14 February 2019

MS S BOLTON asked the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (HON D FARMER)—

QUESTION

With reference to the *Adoption Act 2009*—

Will the Minister advise if, and when, there will be a review of the adoptions laws within Queensland in response to components of the current laws being identified as contributing factors in the decision making process to terminate a pregnancy?

ANSWER

I am aware of no evidence demonstrating that any components of the *Adoption Act 2009* (the Act) are contributing factors in the decision-making process to terminate a pregnancy. The Act encourages and facilitates a birth mother's involvement in selecting adoptive parents for her child. The system also recognises that children and birth family members can benefit from having contact with each other after adoption.

Queensland's adoption laws have been regularly reviewed resulting in legislative amendments that commenced in early 2010 and in November 2016. The next statutory review is due to commence as soon as practicable in 2021-22.

In the meantime if anyone has any evidence about existing adoption laws contributing to decisions to terminate pregnancy, I hope they will provide it to me or my department.