

Question on Notice

No. 899

Asked on 22 August 2023

MS S BOLTON asked the Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Seniors and Disability Services (HON C CRAWFORD)—

QUESTION

With reference to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and the Queensland Family and Child Commission both recommending in 2017 the implementation of Child Safe Standards, and with Victoria implementing the standards last year – (a) will the Minister provide the details of these standards and (b) when they will be introduced in Queensland?

ANSWER

In order to protect children and prevent abuse in institutions, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse recommended that state and territory governments should require all institutions in their jurisdictions, that engage in child-related work to meet its 10 Child Safe Standards.

In response to part (a) of the question, the 10 Child Safe Standards are:

Standard 1: Child safety is embedded in institutional leadership, governance and culture;

Standard 2: Children participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously;

Standard 3: Families and communities are informed and involved;

Standard 4: Equity is upheld and diverse needs are taken into account;

Standard 5: People working with children are suitable and supported;

Standard 6: Processes to respond to complaints of child sexual abuse are child focused;

Standard 7: Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training;

Standard 8: Physical and online environments minimise the opportunity for abuse to occur;

Standard 9: Implementation of the child safe standards is continuously reviewed and improved; and

Standard 10: Policies and procedures document how the institution is child safe.

In response to part B of the question, on 10 August 2023, the *Child Safe Organisations Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement* (CRIS) was released for consultation, seeking feedback on options for implementation of Child Safe Standards and a reportable conduct scheme in Queensland. The consultation period for the CRIS will be open until 22 September 2023.

This is an important milestone in progressing implementation of Child Safe Standards in Queensland.

Feedback from the consultation will be incorporated into a Decision Regulatory Impact Statement which will be published once it has been considered by government.

The CRIS proposes as the preferred option a legislative model for mandatory implementation of Child Safe Standards. If the outcomes of consultation support this model, implementation will require legislation to be drafted, introduced and passed by the Legislative Assembly.

The Queensland Government is committed to improving the safety and wellbeing of children and this work will be progressed as a priority.