

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 982**

**Asked on 24 August 2023**

**MR T NICHOLLS** ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, MINISTER FOR PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE (HON Y D'ATH)

### **QUESTION:**

Will the Attorney-General provide, for each of the 81 recommendations from the QFCC's Keeping Queensland's children more than safe: Review of the blue card system, the timeframe set by the implementation working group (from recommendation 78).

### **ANSWER:**

The Queensland Family and Child Commission's (QFCC) 2017 review of Queensland's blue card system found it is one of the strongest in Australia and has enhanced protection for children in regulated environments since 2001. The blue card system has a strong protective function. In 2022-23, Blue Card Services (BCS) identified 3,866 cases where individuals represented a high risk and were consequently prohibited from working with children.

The Government continues to prioritise those blue card reforms which will have the greatest impact in strengthening the system and protections for Queensland children while also delivering reforms crucial to improving engagement with, and outcomes for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants and organisations.

The staged implementation of the reforms coming out of the QFCC review continues to ensure that Queensland's blue card system remains a contemporary and robust screening system of people seeking to work with children.

An implementation plan for the reforms, including timeframes, was developed in consultation with the Implementation Reference Group (IRG).

In the 2020-21 financial year, deviation from the implementation plan occurred, primarily due to COVID-19. Accordingly, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) updated implementation timeframes in consultation with the IRG.

The updated implementation plan extends the implementation period for a further three financial years (to and including 2024-25). It is based on known priorities and legislative process timeframes, acknowledging that the recommendations are significant, complex and wide-ranging. DJAG will continue to prioritise those changes that increase safeguards for children and improve the engagement of First Nations people with the blue card system.

I am advised that, as at 31 August 2023:

- recommendations 3, 19, 20, 22, 26, 28, 30, 32, 33, 36, 37, 39, 40, 50, 53, 57, 59, 62, 63, 64, 65, 69, 71, 72, 74, 78, 79 and 80 have been completed;
- recommendations 27, 42, 46, 55, 60 and 61 are due for completion in 2023;
- recommendations 23, 51 and 73 are due for completion in 2024;
- recommendations 1, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 24, 25, 29, 31, 34, 35, 41, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49, 54, 56, 58, 66, 67, 68, 75 are due for completion in 2025;
- recommendations 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14 are being progressed by the Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services.
- recommendations 2, 52, 70, 81 are in progress and cannot be completed until other work is finalised or is dependent on work that needs to be completed at the national level; and
- recommendations 21, 38, 76 and 77 are yet to commence, with some of these recommendations dependent on other recommendations still in progress.