



COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

Report No. 6

Queensland Veterans' Council Bill 2021

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Queensland Legislative Assembly	
Number: 572 IT 1761	Tabled <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 14 OCT 2021	By Leave <input type="checkbox"/>
MP: Hon. FORTIMAN	
Clerk's Signature: 	

INTRODUCTION

On 22 April 2021, the Queensland Veterans' Council Bill 2021 (the Bill) was introduced into the Queensland Parliament.

Parliament referred the Bill to the Community Support and Services Committee (the Committee). On 11 June 2021, the Committee tabled Report No. 6 in relation to the Bill (the Report) in the Queensland Parliament.

The Queensland Government tabled an interim response to the Committee's report on 10 September 2021.

The final Queensland Government response to the recommendations contained in the Report is provided below.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the Queensland Veterans' Council Bill 2021 be passed.

Queensland Government response:

The Queensland Government thanks the Committee for its consideration of the Bill and notes its support of the Bill.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that clause 13 of the Queensland Veterans' Council Bill 2021 be amended to provide that at least 50 per cent of the members of the Queensland Veterans' Council (QVC) must be veterans or representatives of the veterans' community.

Queensland Government response:

Clause 13 of the Bill provides that the QVC will have a membership of up to eight people with no more than six members appointed by the Governor in Council ('appointed members') and two ex-officio members.

Currently, the Bill provides that two of the 'appointed members' are nominated by veterans' organisations. The four other appointed members are nominated by the

Minister if the Minister is satisfied the people have the qualifications or experience prescribed in clause 13(3) necessary to support the QVC in the performance of its functions.

It was never intended to limit the opportunity for veterans or members of the veterans' community to be appointed to the QVC and the Bill does not limit the number of veterans that may be appointed to the six appointed members positions, provided they have the necessary skills and experience.

The Queensland Government supports the intent of the Committee's recommendation. In response to the Committee's recommendation, the Government will move amendments during consideration in detail to amend the Bill to provide that four of the 'appointed members' must be veterans or members of the veterans' community. This will ensure that at least 50 per cent of the QVC's membership will comprise veterans or members of the veterans' community.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that clause 34 of the Queensland Veterans' Council Bill 2021 be amended to provide that the Minister must establish a Veterans' Reference Group.

Queensland Government response:

Clause 34 of the Bill provides that the Minister may establish a Veterans' Reference Group. Clause 35 of the Bill prescribes the functions of the Veterans' Reference Group as:

- advising the QVC on any veterans' matter referred to the Veterans' Reference Group;
- helping the QVC to identify and consult with the veterans' community, veterans' organisations and other community organisations when preparing advice for the Minister; and
- helping the QVC to advise the Minister about veterans' matters.

The Government recognises that the Veterans' Reference Group is essential to supporting the QVC in the performance of its advisory function and assisting the QVC to consult with a broad range of veterans' organisations.

The Queensland Government accepts the Committee's recommendation and will move amendments during consideration in detail to amend the Bill to provide that the Minister must establish a Veterans' Reference Group.