

# EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND SKILLS COMMITTEE

## Report No. 8

### Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

#### QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

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#### INTRODUCTION

On 12 June 2024, the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 (the Bill) was introduced to Parliament.

The Bill was referred to the Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee (the Committee) for detailed consideration.

On 2 August 2024, the Committee tabled its report, *Report No. 8, 57th Parliament – Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024* (the Report).

The Queensland Government response to the Committee's recommendations in the Report is provided below.

#### RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS:

##### Recommendation 1 -

The Committee recommends the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 be passed.

##### Queensland Government response:

The Queensland Government thanks the Committee for its consideration of the Bill and appreciates the Committee's recommendation that the Bill be passed.

##### Recommendation 2 -

The Committee recommends that the Bill be amended to remove the requirement that adult household members of kinship carers hold a blue card.

##### Queensland Government response:

The Queensland Government supports the recommendation.

The Government notes the Committee acknowledges that the Bill proposes significant progress towards removing structural barriers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kinship care by removing the requirement that kinship carers obtain a blue card.

However, the Government also acknowledges the Committee's concerns about continuing to require adult household members of approved kinship carers to obtain a blue card.

As a result, the Government will move amendments to the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000* and the *Child Protection Act 1999* during consideration in detail of the Bill to remove the blue card requirement for adult household members in kinship care households.

Consistent with the reforms already in the Bill relating to kinship carers, the amendments relating to adult household members will commence on a date to be fixed by proclamation and automatic commencement under the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954* will not apply.

This is to provide sufficient time for the Queensland Government to consult with stakeholders on the development of a new, fit for purpose and culturally safe screening framework for kinship carers and their adult household members.