



Hon Tracy Davis MP  
Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services

Your reference: 10.4 Petitions  
Our reference: COM 07767-2014

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01 DEC 2014

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petitions 2335-14 and 2251-14, tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 30 October 2014, regarding mandatory reporting legislation to protect children attending child care centres.

You would be aware that through the Stronger Families Reform, the *Child Protection Reform Amendment Act 2014* consolidates current requirements for mandatory reporting to the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services into the *Child Protection Act 1999*, to help make Queensland the safest place to raise a child. The Stronger Families Reform makes it clear, that any person may report a concern about a child to Child Safety, if they have a reasonable suspicion that a child may be in need of protection.

On 14 October 2014, the matter of whether mandatory reporting requirements should be extended to the early childhood education and care sector was referred to the Queensland Law Reform Commission (QLRC) for an independent review.

As you will appreciate, it is important that the QLRC conduct a comprehensive review. Any recommendations made by the QLRC will be considered as part of the proposed overall review of the *Child Protection Act 1999*, to be undertaken by my department in 2015.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr John and Mrs Susan Sandeman, who I have personally met, for raising this important matter in very difficult personal circumstances.

If you require any further information or assistance in relation to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Sally Grant, Policy Advisor in my office on 3719 7500.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Tracy Davis MP  
Minister for Communities, Child Safety  
and Disability Services