

COMMUNIQUÉ to FUNDED SERVICES

Changes to Queensland's child protection legislation

June 2018

Implementation of the *Child Protection Reform Amendment Act 2017*

Since the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women's last communique in March 2018, work has been ongoing to ensure the sector is ready for the commencement of the changes being made through the *Child Protection Reform Amendment Act 2017* (the CPRAA).

A priority over the last few months has been raising awareness about the intent and nature of the CPRAA within the broader child protection system. Information sessions have been held with a broad range of stakeholders, such as:

- Queensland Government partner agencies (including the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Office of the Public Guardian, Queensland Health, Department of Education and Queensland Family and Child Commission)
- Peak child protection bodies (CREATE, Queensland and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak, Foster Care Queensland and PeakCare), and
- Other partners such as the Family Inclusion Network and Queensland Law Society.

Resources

To assist in raising awareness of the changes, the department has developed a number of resources that provide more information, including:

- [CPRAA Strategic Intent](#)
- [CPRAA Implementation What's Changing Poster](#)
- [Information awareness presentation for external suppliers](#)

These are all available on the department's website and services are invited to share with staff, clients and other stakeholders, and the community.

July Amendments

In keeping with the staged approach being taken to implementation, it is proposed the following amendments commence in late July:

- Intervention with Parental Agreement
- Vaccinations
- Temporary Custody Orders
- Research
- Use of Information by the Queensland Police Service
- Publication of information regarding child witnesses

A factsheet with further information on these changes has been prepared and is attached to this email. Further communication regarding the commencement date will be undertaken.

While there is likely to be minimal impact on funded non-government services, foster and kinship care support services and tertiary family support services may require more information in relation to the Intervention with Parental Agreement and Vaccination provisions. The department is developing resources specifically targeted to these services and will be circulating these in the coming weeks. Queensland Health is also undertaking communications activities to ensure health professionals are aware of the changes in relation to vaccinations,

October Amendments

It is proposed that the remaining provisions (Safe Care and Connection, Permanency, Information Sharing and Transition to Adulthood) commence in October. The department is developing a suite of communications material such as videos, factsheets and posters to provide more information about these changes and ensure all parts of the child protection system are

COMMUNIQUÉ to FUNDED SERVICES

Changes to Queensland's child protection legislation

June 2018

ready for commencement. These will be released over the coming months from July.

Of particular note for services will be the inclusion of the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle](#) (CPP) in the administration of the *Child Protection Act 1999* (the Act). This will mean any person or service that undertakes a function under the Act will need to ensure their work is aligned to the five elements of the CPP. Services are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the CPP and consider how these can be applied to their work.

Family Participation Program

The Minister recently approved the recommissioning of funding for the Recognised Entity program to establish the Family Participation Program to provide greater support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to participate in decision-making. Regional industry briefings are being conducted to provide more information on the program and the commissioning process, and it is intended services will be in place for the commencement of the October amendments.

It is important to note the role of the Recognised Entity in providing cultural advice to the department and other points in the child protection system (including the court system) is not being transitioned to the Family Participation Program. From commencement of the October amendments, the department and other agencies will all be responsible for building their collective and individual cultural capability, and listening to families who are acknowledged through the amendments as the best source of cultural knowledge.

Work is underway at local and system levels to build cultural capability within the department, and culturally appropriate resources are being developed in partnership with Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander staff to ensure families are aware of the changes and their rights under the legislation once the amendments take effect.

More Information

Further information and resources will be available on the department's internet site as they are developed:

<https://www.csyw.qld.gov.au/child-family/child-family-reform/child-safety-legislation-reform>

If you have any questions in the lead up to commencement of the provisions, please contact the CPRAA Implementation Team:

☎: (07) 3238 7666

✉: CPAreform@csyw.qld.gov.au