




Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice

18 MAR 2024

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Email: tableoffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie 

Thank you for your letter dated 16 February 2024 regarding Petition No. 3989-23 in relation to the screening and supervision of workers in childcare centres, received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

As the Minister responsible for the regulation of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services in Queensland, the health, safety and wellbeing of children attending these services is my highest priority, and I appreciate the concerns and critical safety issues raised by the petitioners.

The current worker screening system in Queensland is a robust system that has access to a wide range of relevant information that balances the need for strict screening requirements with the impact for the community as a whole.

In early 2023, the Australian Government commissioned the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) to undertake a review considering the effectiveness and contemporary status of child safety arrangements under the National Quality Framework (NQF), which was supported by state and territory Ministers. The Review commenced in May 2023.

In December 2023, ACECQA delivered its report on the Review to Education Ministers. The Review identified that the NQF, inclusive of the Education and Care Services National Law and Education and Care Services National Regulations, and the National Quality Standards, is a robust regulatory scheme that offers strong protections for children nationwide. The Review provided 16 recommendations, encompassing changes within the NQF and more broadly within inter-related government systems.

In response, Education Ministers have agreed to an implementation plan that will urgently prioritise actions to improve existing safeguards, and enhance safety arrangements for children in ECEC throughout Australia. Areas that are covered by the plan include those raised by the petitioners, with recommendations relating to:


- the use of, and access to, closed-circuit television in ECEC services;
- the design of service premises to facilitate supervision of children at all times;
- the use of personal electronic devices in services that take images or videos of children;
- harmonised worker screening requirements; and
- notification timeframes for allegations of physical or sexual abuse.

All Education Ministers are committed to prioritising the safety, wellbeing and protection of children in ECEC services, and to implementing the reforms necessary for the highest standards of child safety and welfare to be upheld nationwide.

The implementation plan will provide the public, ECEC providers and other interested stakeholders with opportunities to input into the proposed changes through comprehensive consultation processes.

I would like to thank you, the principal petitioner, and every person who signed the petition for their interest in screening and supervision of workers in ECEC services.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DI FARMER', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

DI FARMER MP
Minister for Education and
Minister for Youth Justice

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