

Working with Children (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill 2021

Submission to Queensland Parliament Legal Affairs and
Safety Committee

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Who we are

The Australian Lawyers Alliance (ALA) is a national association of lawyers, academics and other professionals dedicated to protecting and promoting justice, freedom and the rights of the individual.

We estimate that our 1,500 members represent up to 200,000 people each year in Australia. We promote access to justice and equality before the law for all individuals regardless of their wealth, position, gender, age, race or religious belief.

The ALA is represented in every state and territory in Australia. More information about us is available on our website.¹

The ALA office is located on the land of the Gadigal of the Eora Nation.

¹ www.lawyersalliance.com.au.

Comments on the Working with Children (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill 2021

1. The ALA welcomes the opportunity to have input into the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee ('LASC') review of the Working with Children (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill 2021 ('the Bill').
2. The ALA in principle supports the Bill noting that the objective is to provide a new Blue Card framework that empowers Indigenous communities to make decisions which best serve their interests in relation to child protection and employment of community members.
3. The ALA notes that the current Blue Card framework and the far-reaching consequences on First Nation families when a negative notice is issued. This is particularly so in the context of the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Cultural Affairs.
4. The ALA support for the Bill is subject to extensive consultation with the Community Justice Groups and evidence of their willingness and capacity to implement the changes. Further, consultation would need to consider how the decisions would impact the relationships between family groups within the community.
5. The Australian Lawyers Alliance (ALA) welcomes the opportunity to have input into the review of the Working with Children (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill 2021 being conducted by the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee. The ALA in principle supports the Bill.



Sarah Grace
Queensland President
Australian Lawyers Alliance