1. The Queensland Law Reform Commission (QLRC), in its report *Review of Child Protection Mandatory Reporting Laws for the Early Childhood Education and Care Sector*,recommended that child protection mandatory reporting provisions in the *Child Protection Act 1999* (CPA) be expanded to apply to particular professionals working in the early childhood education and care (ECEC) sector.
2. The Queensland Government accepted these recommendations – two in full (Recommendations 8-1 and 9-1) and one in principle (Recommendation 9-2).
3. The Child Protection (Mandatory Reporting – Mason’s Law) Amendment Bill 2016 (Private Member’s Bill) seeks to implement the QLRC recommendations.
4. Amendments to the Private Member’s Bill are required to reduce its overall complexity and ensure ECEC professionals are appropriately captured in a way that is clear and consistent. Specifically, the amendments:
* ensure all references to ECEC services are to an approved service under the *Education and Care Services Act 2013* (ECS Act) or Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland) (ECS National Law)
* introduce a single new category of mandatory reporter – ‘early childhood education and care professional’ defined by particular ECEC roles rather than qualifications, with relevant definitions to be provided within the provision
* clarify the new category of mandatory reporter is limited to those individuals (other than a volunteer) who are aged 18 years or over and are an:
* approved provider, supervisor or educator under the ECS Act; or
* approved provider, nominated supervisor, family day care coordinator, educator or family day care educator under the ECS National Law
* provide an additional example under section 13H of the CPA ‘Conferrals with colleague’ tailored to the ECEC sector
* change the Bill to commence on a day to be fixed by proclamation.
1. Cabinet approved amendments to the Child Protection (Mandatory Reporting – Mason’s Law) Amendment Bill 2016.
2. *Attachments*
* [Child Protection (Mandatory Reporting – Mason’s Law) Amendment Bill 2016](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)
* [Amendments to Bill During Consideration in Detail](Attachments/Bill%20-%20ACID.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes to Amendments During Consideration in Detail](Attachments/ExNotes%20-%20ACID.pdf)