



Attorney General; Minister for Corrective Services

Our Ref: 35-05735

Mr P Hallahan
Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
The Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Mr Hallahan

INQUIRY INTO THE CRIMES AMENDMENT (WORKING WITH CHILDREN – CRIMINAL HISTORY) BILL 2009 (CTH)

Thank you for your letter to my Chief of Staff dated 11 September 2009 seeking a submission regarding the Crimes Amendment (Working with Children – Criminal History) Bill 2009 (Cth).

You have advised that the purpose of the Bill is to implement the Council of Australian Governments' agreement of 29 November 2008 to facilitate the inter-jurisdictional exchange of criminal history information for people working with children, including information about spent, pardoned and quashed convictions.

The Western Australian Parliament has enacted the *Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004 (WA)* which provides for procedures for checking the criminal record of people who carry out, or propose to carry out, child-related work and to prohibit people who have been charged with or convicted of certain offences from carrying out child-related work.

The *Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004 (WA)* is administered by my colleague the Hon Robyn McSweeney MLC, the Minister for Child Protection. I understand that the Department of Child protection is well advanced in the drafting of complementary Western Australian legislation which will cover appropriate amendments to the *Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004 (WA)* and the *Spent Convictions Act 1988 (WA)*.

I support the principles of the legislation. I have no comment to make on the Commonwealth Bill but I do thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely

C. Christian Porter MLA
ATTORNEY GENERAL; MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

24 SEP 2009