



Queensland
Government

Queensland
Family & Child
Commission

Telephone: 07 3900 6000
Reference: APSD - TF17/95 - D17/6984

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
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Dear Committee Secretary

The Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) is pleased to provide our support to the amendments proposed under the Criminal Code Amendment (Protecting Minors Online) Bill 2017.

The QFCC supports the intent of the amendments to protect children under the age of 16 from online predators by allowing intervention by law enforcement agencies prior to harm taking place.

We also support the amendments which make it an offence for a person to misrepresent their age online as part of a plan to cause harm to another person under 16 years of age.

In addition, we wish to use this opportunity to advocate for the continued focus on keeping children safe online. The QFCC is leading the 'Out of the Dark' initiative as a strategy to reduce children's and parents' vulnerability to grooming offences.

The intent of the initiative is to raise awareness of the risks associated with online child exploitation, improve the online experience and safety for children and young people, and increase communication between parents, children and young people to support online safety.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact Sue Gleed, A/Assistant Commissioner

Yours sincerely

Cheryl Vardon
Principal Commissioner
Queensland Family and Child Commission

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