



For reply please quote: SocPol/SH – TF/17/13284 – DOC/17/184084

Department of the  
**Premier and Cabinet**

**21 NOV 2017**

Ms Anne Hywood  
General Secretary  
generalsecretary@anglican.org.au

Dear Ms Hywood

I refer to the letters of 19 and 21 September 2017 regarding resolutions on various matters concerning the wellbeing of the Queensland community. I have been requested to reply to you on behalf of the Office of the Premier and Minister for the Arts.

The Church's important work in pursuit of benefits for the Australian community is acknowledged, including its ongoing support for the work of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Royal Commission).

As you may be aware a state election will be held in Queensland on 25 November 2017.

By convention, the Government assumes a caretaker role from the time that the Legislative Assembly is dissolved, and ensures that, in general, decisions are not taken which would bind an incoming Government.

However, I can advise that significant work has been undertaken, or is underway, in Queensland across a range of areas relevant to the Church's resolutions.

The Queensland Family and Child Commission recently completed reviews of the blue card and foster care systems in Queensland. These considered, and built upon, the Royal Commission's recommendations on working with children checks. As you would be aware, the Royal Commission's final report is due by 15 December 2017 and will require detailed consideration by all Australian governments.

Most recommendations in the *Not Now, Not Ever: Putting an End to Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland* report (the Report) have been implemented. The Report aims to create a Queensland free from domestic and family violence. Importantly, from term one of this school year, state and non-state schools can access the Respectful Relationships education program (the Program). The Program emphasises developing and maintaining respectful relationships, respecting self and gender equality, and responsible decision making.

In respect of the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the justice system, the Murri Court has now been established in 14 locations across Queensland. The Murri Court takes into account cultural issues and responds to the specific needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants.

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The Department of Justice and Attorney-General funds Community Justice Groups (CJGs) across Queensland to work to reduce over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders and victims within the criminal justice system. CJGs achieve this through delivery of, or referral to, culturally appropriate services and are involved in making submissions to the court when making bail or sentencing decisions.

New programs have also been implemented across the youth justice system, such as the Transition 2 Success (T2S) program which works with young people in, or at risk of, becoming involved with the youth justice system. T2S is a collective impact approach and was developed through partnerships with schools, registered training organisations, not-for-profit organisations and private businesses. T2S is aimed at re-connecting young people into education, training and skills to find meaningful employment and address the underlying causes of offending.

The Youth Justice First Nations Action Board seeks to ensure youth justice policy, programs and interventions are designed and delivered to divert Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people from a life in the youth justice system, and provide support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities.

The Queensland *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* and *Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (the Acts) provide recognition, protection and conservation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage. The Acts provide protection of areas and objects of traditional, customary, and archaeological significance, recognises the key role of Traditional Owners in cultural heritage matters, and establishes practical and flexible processes for dealing with cultural heritage in a timely manner.

The Queensland Constitution has for some time acknowledged Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The preamble provides that the people of Queensland 'honour the Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the First Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share and pay tribute to their unique values, and their ancient and enduring cultures, which deepen and enrich the life of our community'.

In Queensland there are many options available in the form of advanced care planning and palliative care for people to manage their end of life care. These services provide physical, psychological, emotional, and spiritual support for patients, families and friends. They aim to free patients as much as possible from unnecessary suffering and assist in maintaining dignity and independence. The Queensland Statewide strategy for end-of-life care 2015, and charter for care of adult patients at the end of life, support the provision and coordination of personalised care for people at the end of their lives.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Stewart', written in a cursive style.

Dave Stewart  
**Director-General**