

Child Safety (Carers) Amendment Bill 2006

Explanatory notes for Amendments to be moved during consideration in detail by The Honourable Mike Reynolds AM MP

Title of the Bill

Child Safety (Carers) Amendment Bill 2006

Objectives of the Amendments

The amendments are intended to:

- change the commencement date for certain provisions of the Child Safety (Carers) Amendment Bill 2006 from 30 April to 31 May 2006; and
- as a consequence of changing the commencement date, change the date on which the approvals of kinship carers begin to expire for those kinship carers who were administratively approved relative carers prior to the commencement.

Consistency with Fundamental Legislative Principles

The amendments are consistent with the fundamental legislative principles.

Consultation

The Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet have been consulted in preparing the amendments.

Notes on Provisions

Amendment 1 amends clause 2(2) of the Bill to change the commencement date for the provisions specified in clause 2(2) from 30 April 2006 to 31 May 2006.

Amendment 2 amends clause 26 to change the dates specified in the transitional arrangements for administratively approved kinship carers as a consequence of the change to the commencement provision.

The amendment made by clause 26 of the Bill relates to a transitional provision (section 66) included in the *Child Safety Legislation Amendment Act 2005*. The transitional provision applies to carers who have been administratively approved as relative carers for a child and provides that:

- from the commencement of the *Child Safety Legislation Amendment Act 2005* (which is planned to commence on 31 May 2006), the administratively approved relative carers will become approved kinship carers; and
- starting on 30 June 2006, two months after the planned 30 April commencement of the *Child Safety Legislation Amendment Act 2005*, the approvals of these kinship carers will expire on the second or next anniversary of the day the original administrative approval was issued and the carer will have to apply for renewal of the approval.

Clause 26 is amended to provide that, if an administrative approval was given before 31 July 2004, it will expire on the anniversary of the day of its issue first happening after 31 July 2006. This will preserve the two month window of time between the commencement of the transitional provision and the time at which the approvals will begin to expire. This two month period will allow the department to work with the carers whose approvals will be first to expire to apply for renewal of their approval after the procedural provisions that relate to the renewal of kinship carers approvals have commenced.