

Guide, Hearing and Assistance Dogs Amendment Bill 2015

EXPLANATORY NOTES

For amendments to be moved during consideration in detail by
The Honourable Coralee O'Rourke MP
Minister for Disability Services
Minister for Seniors
Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland

Title of the Bill

Guide, Hearing and Assistance Dogs Amendment Bill 2015

Objective of the Amendment

The objective of the amendment is to clarify that the meaning of the term *primary handler* includes a child with disability.

Since the introduction of the Bill on 15 July 2015, an issue in relation to use of the term *primary handler* was raised by a key member of the stakeholder review panel. The stakeholder considered that the term *primary handler* has a connotation that it applies to an adult.

The policy intent of differentiating between a primary handler and an alternative handler was to recognise the access rights of the primary handler (could be a child with disability) who cannot physically control their certified dog and requires the assistance of another person (the alternative handler) to do so.

Achievement of the Objective

The objective will be achieved by inserting an example for the term *primary handler* to clarify that it includes a child with disability.

Alternative Ways of Achieving Policy Objective

Amending the Bill in this manner is the most effective way of achieving the policy objective.

Estimated Cost for Government Implementation

This proposal will be implemented within existing resources.

Consistency with Fundamental Legislative Principles

The amendment is consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

Consultation

Patricia McAlister from Smart Pups.

NOTES ON PROVISION

Clause 52 is amended to include under the definition of *primary handler*, an example is added that a primary handler includes a child with a disability.