

# **Proclamation – Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024**

Explanatory notes for SL 2025 No. 63

Made under the

*Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024*

## **General Outline**

### **Short title**

Proclamation commencing certain provisions of the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024*

### **Authorising law**

Section 2 of the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024* (the Amendment Act).

### **Policy objectives and the reasons for them**

The Amendment Act received royal assent on 19 September 2024. The policy objective of the proclamation is to commence certain provisions of the Amendment Act stated in the Schedule to the proclamation. The provisions commenced by the proclamation will:

- amend the *Disability Services Act 2006* and the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000* (WWC Act) to provide for greater alignment between the two Acts, including providing for more consistent information sharing and confidentiality provisions relating to worker screening;
- provide the chief executive with a new power to ask a person or entity for information to facilitate compliance with the WWC Act;
- require employers to keep a register about persons employed in regulated employment;
- provide an exemption for interstate or international emergency workers deployed to Queensland as part of a declaration of a state of fire emergency made under the *Fire Services Act 1990* or a disaster situation under the *Disaster Management Act 2003*; and
- include new stand-alone categories of regulated employment and regulated business for justice and detention services which better capture workers providing services to children in detention or subject to an order under the *Youth Justice Act 1992*.

## **Achievement of policy objectives**

The policy objective will be achieved by fixing a commencement date for the provisions of 1 July 2025.

## **Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law**

The proclamation is consistent with the policy objectives of the Amendment Act.

## **Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation**

The proclamation is not inconsistent with the policy objectives of other legislation.

## **Alternative ways of achieving policy objectives**

There are no alternative means to achieve the policy objectives.

## **Benefits and costs of implementation**

Commencing the specified provisions of the Amendment Act will promote and protect the rights, interests and wellbeing of children and young people in Queensland. The commencement of the provisions is not expected to present any additional costs for government.

## **Consistency with fundamental legislative principles**

The proclamation is consistent with the fundamental legislative principles.

## **Consultation**

An overview of the proposed commencement of the amendments was given to members of the Blue Card System Review Implementation Reference Group. No issues were raised.

An Impact Analysis Statement has been completed that identifies that the proclamation is not subject to regulatory impact assessment requirements under the *Queensland Government Better Regulation Policy* as it is a regulatory proposal that is machinery in nature.