

# GROWING CHILD SAFE ORGANISATIONS IN QUEENSLAND

## Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement 2023

### DOCUMENT OVERVIEW

#### WHERE DID THIS BEGIN

A Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse was conducted and reported on in 2017. The Royal Commission concluded that many organisations entrusted with the care of children and young people failed to protect them and keep them safe. It was recommended that state and territory governments implement a framework for organisations to follow, including 10 **Child Safe Standards (CSS)** and nationally consistent **reportable conduct schemes (RCS)**.

#### WHAT IS 'CSS' AND 'RCS'

The **Child Safe Standards (CSS)** act as a blueprint for organisations to become child safe and establish organisational cultures that value children, respect their rights and prevent institutional child abuse.



**Reportable conduct schemes (RCS)** provide oversight and guidance to organisations to support their response to allegations of child abuse and misconduct (*'reportable conduct'*) and aims to ensure complaints are handled properly and information about people who may pose a risk to children is shared appropriately across organisations and sectors.

#### WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW

The Queensland Government has released *'Growing Child Safe Organisations in Queensland – Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement'* to outline their proposed actions in response to the recommendations within the Royal Commission. The public is invited to provide feedback on the proposals being made. Feedback can be provided in the form of a written submission, via:

**Email:** [RC\\_SPAL@cyjma.qld.gov.au](mailto:RC_SPAL@cyjma.qld.gov.au)

**Mail:** Strategic Policy and Legislation  
Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services  
Locked Bag 3405  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Submissions close on **Friday, 22 September at 5:00pm.**

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### SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

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#### GOVERNMENT OBJECTIVES

1. Ensure the safety and wellbeing of children accessing services or facilities.
2. Ensure children who are at risk of experiencing, or have experienced, abuse in institutional settings are supported early, in a trauma-informed and appropriate way.

#### PROPOSED REFORMS

Establish a single, independent oversight body responsible for:

- Supporting organisations to implement the Child Safe Standards (CSS),
- Overseeing institutional complaints and allegations of child abuse through Reportable Conduct Schemes (RCS).

#### IMPLEMENTING CSS

**Option 1:** Organisations remain responsible for their own child safe policies and procedures, and compliance is not monitored.

**Option 2:** A new child safe framework will be developed, and it will only be mandatory for Government and Government-funded organisations to comply. All other organisations may volunteer to adopt the framework, and compliance is not monitored.

**Option 3a:** An external organisation (the oversight body) will be established. Its role will be to collaborate with organisations that DO already have a regulatory authority, and support the organisations that DON'T, to ensure they are compliant with the Child Safe Standards and have appropriate procedures in place for managing complaints and allegations of abuse. Compliance will be mandatory.

**Option 3b:** An external organisation (the oversight body) will be established. Its role will be to ONLY provide support to organisations that DON'T already have a regulatory authority, to ensure they are compliant with the Child Safe Standards and have appropriate procedures in place for managing complaints and allegations of abuse. Organisations that DO already have a regulatory authority will be supported by that regulatory authority to comply with the Standards and manage allegations of abuse. Compliance will be mandatory.

#### IMPLEMENTING RCS

**Option 1:** Organisations continue to rely on the current systems in place (i.e., Blue Card system, mandatory reporting), with no new obligations imposed.

**Option 2:** An external organisation (the oversight body) will be established. Its role will be to ensure organisations manage complaints and allegations of abuse appropriately, through Reportable Conduct Schemes (RCS). Organisations will be required to demonstrate they have all necessary systems in place for preventing, detecting, and responding to reportable allegations, and the oversight body will support them through this process.

The preferred options of the Queensland Government are **Option 3a** for implementing the Child Safe Standards (CSS), and **Option 2** for implementing Reportable Conduct Schemes (RCS).



To review the complete 'Growing Child Safe Organisations in Queensland – Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement', scan the QR Code.