

Queensland



**COMMISSION FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE ACT 2000**

Act No. 60 of 2000

Queensland



**COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE ACT 2000**

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Queensland



Commission for Children and Young People Act 2000

Act No. 60 of 2000

**An act to establish a Commission for Children and Young People to
promote and protect the rights, interests and wellbeing of
children in Queensland**

[Assented to 24 November 2000]

The Parliament of Queensland enacts—

PART 1—PRELIMINARY

Division 1—Introduction

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 2000*.

Commencement

2. This Act commences on a day to be fixed by proclamation.

Dictionary

3. The dictionary in schedule 4 defines particular words used in this Act.

Act binds all persons

4.(1) This Act binds all persons including the State and, as far as the legislative power of the Parliament permits, the Commonwealth and all the other States.

(2) Subsection (1) does not make the State, the Commonwealth or another State liable for an offence.

Division 2—Object, underlying principles and scope of Act

Object of Act

5. The object of this Act is to establish the Commission for Children and Young People to promote and protect the rights, interests and wellbeing of children in Queensland.

Principles underlying this Act

6.(1) The following principles underlie this Act—

- (a) every child is a valued member of society;
- (b) in decisions involving a child—
 - (i) the best interests of the child are the paramount concern; and
 - (ii) the child's views and wishes should be taken into account in a way that has regard to the child's age and maturity;
- (c) every child is entitled—
 - (i) to be treated in a way that respects the child's dignity and privacy; and
 - (ii) to be cared for in a way that protects the child from harm and promotes the child's wellbeing; and
 - (iii) to express the child's concerns and grievances and to have them dealt with in a way that is fair and timely and promotes the child's participation; and
 - (iv) to receive information and help to enable the child to exercise the child's entitlements; and
 - (v) to have access to services necessary to meet the child's needs;
- (d) the family has the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of its children, and should be supported in that role.

(2) This Act must be administered under the principles.

Scope of Act not limited to acts against persons who are children when commissioner involved, or to future acts

7.(1) This Act is not limited to—

- (a) matters about persons who are children at the time the commissioner is involved; or
- (b) matters that happen after this Act commences.

Example for paragraph (a)—

A 17 year old child makes a complaint about a matter. The commissioner may continue to perform the commissioner's functions and exercise the commissioner's powers in relation to the matter after the child turns 18.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1)—

- (a) the commissioner may perform the commissioner's functions or exercise the commissioner's powers in relation to something that happened when a person was a child, even if the person is no longer living; and
- (b) a person may complain about something that happened when another person was a child, even if the other person is no longer living.

Division 3—Service providers

Meaning of “service provider”

8. A “**service provider**” is a government service provider or private service provider.

Meaning of “government service provider”

9. A “**government service provider**” is a government entity or a local government.

Meaning of “private service provider”

10. A “**private service provider**” is an entity, other than a government service provider, that provides a service for which the funding is—

- (a) wholly or partly provided by the State or a local government; or
- (b) wholly or partly administered by the State.

Services provided by a service provider

11. A reference in this Act to a service provided by a service provider is a reference to a service provided—

- (a) directly by the service provider; or
- (b) under an arrangement that involves a written agreement to which the service provider is a party.

Example for paragraph (b)—

Services provided to children under foster care arrangements.

PART 2—COMMISSIONER AND COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Division 1—Establishment

Establishment of commissioner and commission

12.(1) There is to be a Commissioner for Children and Young People.

(2) An office called the Commission for Children and Young People is established.

(3) The commission consists of the commissioner and the staff of the commission.

Control of commission

13. The commissioner is to control the commission.

Application of other Acts

14.(1) The commission is—

- (a) a unit of public administration under the *Criminal Justice Act 1989*; and
- (b) a statutory body under the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977*; and
- (c) a statutory body under the *Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982*.

(2) The *Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982*, part 2B, sets out the way in which the commission's powers under this Act are affected by the *Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982*.

Division 2—Functions and powers

Commissioner's functions

15. The commissioner has the following functions—

- (a) to receive, seek to resolve, monitor and investigate complaints about services provided to certain children by service providers;¹
- (b) to monitor and review the way in which service providers respond to complaints about services provided by them to certain children;
- (c) to advocate for children and, in advocating for children, to seek help from advocacy entities, service providers and other entities;
- (d) to promote the establishment by service providers of appropriate and accessible mechanisms for the participation of children in matters that may affect them;
- (e) to monitor and review laws, policies and practices that—
 - (i) relate to the delivery of services to children; or
 - (ii) otherwise impact on children;
- (f) to promote laws, policies and practices that uphold the principles underlying this Act;²
- (g) to encourage, facilitate and support the development and coordination of advocacy and other support services for children;
- (h) to promote awareness among children about advocacy entities, complaints agencies and other relevant entities;
- (i) to promote an understanding of, and informed public discussion

¹ See section 32 (Subject matter of complaints) for the complaints that the commissioner deals with under this Act.

² See section 6 (Principles underlying this Act).

- about, the rights, interests and wellbeing of children;
- (j) to conduct, coordinate, sponsor, participate in and promote research about the rights, interests and wellbeing of children;
 - (k) to conduct independent inspections of visitable sites;
 - (l) to screen persons employed, or proposed to be employed, in certain child-related employment;
 - (m) to screen persons carrying on, or proposing to carry on, certain child-related businesses;
 - (n) to report on, and make recommendations about, matters relating to the commissioner's functions;
 - (o) other functions conferred on the commissioner under this or another Act.

Commissioner's powers

16. The commissioner has all necessary or convenient powers to perform the commissioner's functions.

Commissioner must act independently etc.

17.(1) In performing the commissioner's functions and exercising the commissioner's powers, the commissioner—

- (a) must act independently and in a way that promotes and protects the rights, interests and wellbeing of children; and
- (b) is not under the control or direction of the Minister.

(2) Subsection (1) is not limited by section 18, 19 or 20.

Way in which commissioner is to perform commissioner's functions

18. In performing the commissioner's functions, the commissioner must do the following—

- (a) consult with children in ways that promote their participation in decision making by the commissioner;
- (b) listen to, and seriously consider, the concerns, views and wishes

- of children;
- (c) adopt work practices that ensure the commission is accessible to children;
 - (d) be sensitive to the ethnic or cultural identity and values of children including, in particular, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children;
 - (e) give priority to the needs and interests of children—
 - (i) who are in, or may enter, out-of-home care or detention in a detention centre; or
 - (ii) who have no appropriate person to act on their behalf; or
 - (iii) who are not able to protect their rights, interests or wellbeing; or
 - (iv) who are disadvantaged because of a disability, geographic isolation, homelessness or poverty;
 - (f) consult with the following entities about the work of the commission—
 - (i) advocacy entities;
 - (ii) complaints agencies;
 - (iii) service providers;
 - (iv) other entities concerned with the rights, interests and wellbeing of children;
 - (g) liaise with other entities about the resolution of complaints referred to the entities under this Act.

Commissioner may use expert advisers or cooperate with other entities

19.(1) In performing the commissioner's functions, the commissioner may—

- (a) obtain help from anyone whom the commissioner considers to be appropriately qualified to give the help; and
- (b) cooperate with any service provider or other entity providing services or dealing with issues affecting children.

(2) For subsection (1), the commissioner may enter into arrangements, with a Minister responsible for administering an Act under which a government service provider is established, to secure the service provider's cooperation.

Example—

The commissioner may enter into arrangements to secure a service provider's cooperation to obtain information about services or issues affecting children.

Referral of matters or offences to other persons

20.(1) This section applies to information received by the commissioner in performing the commissioner's functions.

(2) If, based on the information, the commissioner considers—

- (a) a child may be a child in need of protection under the *Child Protection Act 1999*, the commissioner must refer the matter to the chief executive (families) or the police commissioner; or
- (b) a child is, or may be, the victim of a criminal offence, the commissioner must—
 - (i) refer the matter to the police commissioner; and
 - (ii) if the matter may involve relevant criminal activity within the meaning given by the *Crime Commission Act 1997*, refer the matter to the Queensland Crime Commissioner.

(3) To remove doubt, it is declared that the commissioner may refer a matter to other entities and may refer a matter to more than 1 entity.

Example—

The commissioner may refer a matter to the chief executive (families), the police commissioner and the Criminal Justice Commission.

Division 3—Appointment of commissioner and related provisions

Appointment of commissioner

21.(1) The commissioner is to be appointed by the Governor in Council.

(2) A person is eligible for appointment as the commissioner only if the

person has—

- (a) knowledge, and experience working with children, in a relevant subject area; and
- (b) a demonstrated commitment to upholding the principles underlying this Act.³

(3) A person can not be appointed as the commissioner if the person—

- (a) does not consent to a criminal history check before the appointment; or
- (b) has a conviction for an indictable offence.

(4) For subsection (3), the *Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986*, sections 6, 8 and 9, do not apply in relation to the appointment of the commissioner.⁴

(5) The commissioner is to be appointed under this Act and not under the *Public Service Act 1996*.

(6) In this section—

“relevant subject area” means child protection, children’s rights, child welfare, community services, education, law, medicine, psychology or social work.

Duration of appointment

22.(1) Subject to sections 26 and 27, the commissioner holds office for the term stated in the instrument of appointment.

(2) The term stated in the instrument of appointment must not be longer than 5 years.

(3) However, a person appointed as commissioner is eligible for reappointment.

³ See section 6 (Principles underlying this Act).

⁴ *Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986*, sections 6 (Non-disclosure of convictions upon expiration of rehabilitation period), 8 (Lawful to deny certain convictions) and 9 (Duty to disregard certain convictions)

Terms and conditions of appointment

23.(1) The commissioner is to be paid the remuneration and allowances decided by the Governor in Council.

(2) The commissioner holds office on the terms and conditions, not provided for by this Act, that are decided by the Governor in Council.

Preservation of rights

24.(1) This section applies if a public service officer is appointed as the commissioner.

(2) The person retains and is entitled to all rights that have accrued to the person because of employment as a public service officer, or that would accrue in the future to the person because of that employment, as if service as commissioner were a continuation of service as a public service officer.

(3) At the end of the person's term of office or on resignation—

- (a)** the person is entitled to be appointed to an office in the public service at a salary level not less than the current salary level of an office equivalent to the office the person held before being appointed as commissioner; and
- (b)** the person's service as commissioner is to be regarded as service of a like nature in the public service for deciding the person's rights as a public service officer.

Leave of absence

25. The Minister may grant leave of absence to the commissioner on the terms and conditions the Minister considers appropriate.

Resignation

26. The commissioner may resign by signed notice given to the Minister.

Termination of appointment

27.(1) The Governor in Council may end the commissioner's appointment if the commissioner—

- (a) becomes incapable of satisfactorily performing the commissioner's duties; or
- (b) is guilty of misconduct that could warrant dismissal from the public service if the commissioner were a public service officer; or
- (c) is absent from duty or from the State, without the Minister's leave and without reasonable excuse, for 14 consecutive days or 28 days in a year.

(2) The Governor in Council must end the commissioner's appointment if the commissioner—

- (a) is convicted of an indictable offence, whether in Queensland or elsewhere; or
- (b) engages in paid employment outside the duties of office without the Minister's approval.

Acting commissioner

28.(1) The Governor in Council may appoint a person to act as commissioner—

- (a) during a vacancy in the office; or
- (b) during any period, or during all periods, when the commissioner is absent from duty or from the State or can not, for another reason, perform the duties of the office.

(2) A person can not be appointed to act as commissioner unless the Governor in Council could appoint the person as commissioner under section 21.

Division 4—Commission's staff

Commission's staff

29.(1) The commission's staff, other than community visitors,⁵ are to be

⁵ For the appointment of community visitors, see section 81 (Appointment).

employed under the *Public Service Act 1996*.

(2) The commissioner may arrange with the chief executive of a department, or with another unit of public administration, for the services of officers or employees of the department or other unit to be made available to the commission.

Criminal history screening of commissioner's staff

30. Part 7 deals with criminal history screening of the commissioner's staff.

Staff subject only to direction of commissioner

31. The commissioner's staff are not subject to direction by any person, other than the commissioner, about—

- (a) the way in which the commissioner's powers are to be exercised; and
- (b) the priority to be given to matters relating to the commissioner's functions.

PART 3—COMPLAINTS

Division 1—Making complaints

Subject matter of complaints

32. A complaint may be made, or dealt with under this part, only so far as the complaint relates to a service provided, or required to be provided, to a child—

- (a) while the child is the subject of an order under the *Child Protection Act 1999*; or
- (b) while the chief executive (families) is taking action under the *Child Protection Act 1999* to ensure the child's protection; or

- (c) while the child is subject to a community service order, fixed release order, immediate release order or probation order under the *Juvenile Justice Act 1992*; or
- (d) while the child is in detention under the *Juvenile Justice Act 1992* or the *Bail Act 1980*; or
- (e) in the course of a program or service established under the *Juvenile Justice Act 1992*, section 224A.⁶

Basis of complaints and who may complain

33.(1) A complaint may be made to the commissioner—

- (a) that a service provider has not provided, or is not providing, a service to a child or children that the service provider is required to provide; or
- (b) that a service provider has provided, or is providing, a service to a child or children in a way that is contrary to the rights, interests or wellbeing of the child or children.

(2) The complaint may be made by—

- (a) a child to whom the complaint relates; or
- (b) any person (including a member of an advocacy entity or another child) acting for, and in the interests of, a child or children to whom the complaint relates.

Time limit for making complaint

34. A person may only make a complaint about a matter within 1 year after the person first becomes aware of the matter.

Identity of complainant

35.(1) A person making a complaint must give the commissioner—

- (a) the person's name and address; and

⁶ *Juvenile Justice Act 1992*, section 224A (Programs and services for children)

- (b) any other information relating to the person's identity that the commissioner reasonably requires.

(2) However, the commissioner may accept a complaint from a complainant who does not comply with subsection (1) if the commissioner reasonably believes it is in the public interest to do so.

Complaint may be made in writing or orally

36.(1) A person may make a complaint to the commissioner—

- (a) orally, whether in person or by telephone, radio or another form of communication; or
- (b) in writing, whether by giving a document or by sending the writing by facsimile, email or another form of communication.

(2) If an adult makes a complaint orally, the commissioner—

- (a) must ask the adult to make the complaint in writing within a reasonable period of time stated in the request; and
- (b) may assess the complaint, but must not otherwise deal with it until the written complaint is received.

(3) If a child makes a complaint orally, the commissioner—

- (a) may provide help to the child to make the complaint in writing; and
- (b) may assess or otherwise deal with the complaint, whether or not the child makes the complaint in writing.

Initiation of complaints in name of commissioner

37.(1) This section applies if—

- (a) the commissioner becomes aware of a matter the commissioner considers may be the subject of a complaint; and
- (b) a complaint about the matter has not been made under this division; and
- (c) the commissioner believes—
 - (i) the rights, interests or wellbeing of a child or children may

be seriously affected if a complaint about the matter is not made, and it is not reasonable to require the child or children affected by the matter to complain to a complaints agency or another government entity; or

- (ii) the matter raises issues of public interest; or
- (iii) the matter raises a significant issue about a law, policy or practice underlying the relevant service, or about the need for a law, policy or practice to underlie the relevant service.

Examples for paragraph (b)—

1. No-one has contacted the commissioner about the matter.
2. An adult has made a complaint about the matter orally and has not confirmed it in writing.
3. A person has contacted the commissioner about the matter but can not make a complaint because it is more than 1 year since the person first became aware of the matter.

(2) The commissioner may make a complaint in the commissioner's name about the matter.

Division 2—Assessing complaints and deciding further action

Assessment of complaint

38.(1) The commissioner must assess a complaint within the following times—

- (a) if the commissioner seeks more information under subsection (2) to assess the complaint—within 28 days after obtaining the information;
- (b) otherwise—within 28 days after receiving the complaint.

(2) If the commissioner needs more information to properly assess a complaint, the commissioner must seek the information as soon as practicable.

(3) This section does not apply to a complaint in the commissioner's name.

Action following assessment

39.(1) After assessing a complaint made under division 1, or making a complaint in the commissioner's name, the commissioner must take 1 or more of the following actions—

- (a) if the service provider to whom the complaint relates (the **“relevant provider”**) has a complaint handling mechanism that the commissioner considers would be appropriate for the complainant to use—refer the complaint to the relevant provider;
- (b) refer the complaint to a complaints agency, another government service provider responsible for regulating the relevant provider, or another appropriate entity;
- (c) seek to resolve the complaint in a way the commissioner considers appropriate;
- (d) investigate the complaint;
- (e) decide, under section 40, not to deal with the complaint.

(2) When deciding the action to take, the commissioner must consider whether the action should be taken urgently because the rights, interests or wellbeing of a child or children may be adversely affected if action is delayed.

(3) The commissioner's functions and powers relating to a complaint are not affected by the referral of the complaint to another entity.

(4) In this section—

“complaint” includes part of a complaint.

Grounds for not dealing with complaint

40.(1) The commissioner must not deal with a complaint, or continue dealing with a complaint, if the commissioner is satisfied of any of the following—

- (a) the complaint is frivolous or otherwise lacks substance;
- (b) the subject matter of the complaint—
 - (i) has already been adequately dealt with by the commissioner;or

- (ii) has already been adequately dealt with, or would be more appropriately dealt with, by the relevant provider, another government service provider responsible for regulating the relevant provider or another entity; or
- (iii) is before, or has already been decided by, the Children Services Tribunal; or
- (iv) is before an inquest or inquiry being held under the *Coroners Act 1958*; or
- (v) is, or has been, otherwise the subject of a legal proceeding;
- (c) any dealing, or further dealing, with the complaint is unnecessary or unjustifiable in all the circumstances of the case;
- (d) the basis of the complaint is not related to the interests of the child or children on whose behalf the complaint is alleged to be made;
- (e) the complainant has failed, without reasonable excuse, to satisfactorily cooperate with attempts made or arranged by the commissioner to resolve the complaint.

(2) Also, the commissioner may decide not to deal with a complaint, or may stop dealing with a complaint, if—

- (a) the complainant does not comply with a request by the commissioner for information about the complaint or about the complainant's identity; or
- (b) the complainant withdraws the complaint; or
- (c) the commissioner considers it would be inappropriate to deal or continue to deal with the complaint, having regard to—
 - (i) the resources available to deal with the complaint; and
 - (ii) the relevance of the subject matter of the complaint to the rights, interests and wellbeing of children in Queensland at the time of the commissioner's consideration of the complaint and in the future.

(3) If the commissioner decides not to deal with a complaint, or continue dealing with a complaint, the commissioner must give written notice of the decision, and the reasons for the decision, to the complainant as soon as practicable.

(4) In this section—
“**complaint**” includes part of a complaint.

Division 3—Investigating complaints

Subdivision 1—Starting an investigation

Commissioner may investigate complaint

- 41.** The commissioner may investigate a complaint after—
- (a) making it under section 37; or
 - (b) assessing it under section 38.

Notice to service provider

42.(1) Before investigating a complaint, the commissioner must give a written notice to the service provider to which the complaint relates.

- (2)** The notice must state the following—
- (a) that a complaint has been made;
 - (b) the particulars of the complaint;
 - (c) that the commissioner intends to investigate the complaint;
 - (d) that the service provider may make a written submission about the complaint within a reasonable time stated in the notice.

Subdivision 2—Access to child and information for investigation

Access to child

43.(1) The commissioner may, by written notice, require a person to provide access to a child who is or whom the commissioner reasonably believes is—

- (a) a complainant; or

(b) a child on whose behalf or in whose interests a complaint has been made; or

(c) a witness to a matter being investigated by the commissioner.

(2) The notice must state the time and place at which access must be provided.

(3) A person to whom a notice is given under subsection (1) must comply with the notice, unless the person has a reasonable excuse for not complying.

Maximum penalty—50 penalty units.

(4) It is a reasonable excuse for a person not to comply with a notice that the child to whom access is required has indicated to the commissioner that he or she does not wish to communicate with the commissioner in relation to the complaint or matter being investigated.

(5) Subsection (1)(a) and (c) apply to a child whether or not the child may, under section 32, be the subject of a complaint.

Security directions about visiting detention centres etc.

44.(1) The chief executive of the department responsible for the administration of the *Juvenile Justice Act 1992* may give directions to a person, about the conduct of visits to a detention centre, that the chief executive considers necessary for maintaining the security of the centre.

(2) The police commissioner may give directions to a person, about the conduct of visits to a watch-house or lockup, that the police commissioner considers necessary for maintaining the security of the place.

(3) If a person visits a child in a detention centre, watch-house or lockup, under a notice given under section 43, the person must comply with any relevant directions given under subsection (1) or (2).

Notice for information

45.(1) The commissioner may give a notice (a “**notice for information**”) under this section to a person, other than a child, for the purpose of carrying out the commissioner’s functions for an investigation.

(2) The notice may require the person—

- (a) to give information by statutory declaration, by a stated reasonable time, about a stated matter; or
- (b) to attend before the commissioner at a stated reasonable time and place—
 - (i) to give information and answer questions about a stated matter; or
 - (ii) to produce a stated document or other thing; or
- (c) if it does not appear to the commissioner to be reasonable to require the person to attend before the commissioner in person, but it is reasonable to require the person to communicate with the commissioner by telephone conferencing, videoconferencing or another form of telecommunication—to communicate with the commissioner in a stated way and at a stated reasonable time about a stated matter.

(3) The person must comply with the notice, unless the person has a reasonable excuse for not complying.

Maximum penalty—50 penalty units.

(4) The notice need not state the matter of the investigation if the commissioner is satisfied that, in the particular circumstances of the investigation, stating the matter may prejudice the effectiveness of the investigation.

(5) The stating of a matter, or the failure to state a matter, in the notice does not prevent the commissioner from questioning the person about a matter relating to the investigation.

(6) If the person gives the commissioner a document or other thing, as required by the notice, the commissioner—

- (a) may inspect the document or other thing and make a reproduction of it; and
- (b) must return the document or other thing to the person as soon as practicable.

Identity of notifier under Child Protection Act 1999

46.(1) If the commissioner decides it is necessary for the commissioner

to know the identity of a notifier mentioned in the *Child Protection Act 1999*, section 186, the commissioner must give written notice to the chief executive (families) requiring disclosure of the identity within a reasonable time stated in the notice.

- (2) The chief executive (families) must comply with the notice.

Subdivision 3—Defences for failing to comply with notice for information

Application of sdiv 3

47. This subdivision applies to a person who is given a notice for information by which the person is required to give information or produce a document or other thing.

Witness privilege

48. The person is not required to give the information, or produce the document or other thing, if the person objects on the ground of a privilege the person would be entitled to claim against giving the information, or producing the document or other thing, were the person a witness in a prosecution for an offence in the Supreme Court.

Notice for information given to law enforcement agency

49.(1) If the person is the police commissioner, the police commissioner need not comply with the notice to the extent the police commissioner considers that giving the information, or producing the document or other thing, would compromise the security of an investigation by the police service.

(2) If the person is the Criminal Justice Commission under the *Criminal Justice Act 1989*, it need not comply with the notice to the extent its chairperson considers that giving the information, or producing the document or other thing, would compromise the security of an investigation by it.

- (3) If the person is the Queensland Crime Commission under the *Crime*

Commission Act 1997, it need not comply with the notice to the extent the crime commissioner considers that giving the information, or producing the document or other thing, would compromise the security of an investigation by it.

Claim of unjustifiable exercise of power

50. The person is not required to comply with the notice if a Supreme Court judge decides that, on balance, the purpose for which the information was required to be given, or the document or other thing was required to be produced, does not justify—

- (a) the adverse effect on the person's financial interests that would result from complying with the notice; or
- (b) the intrusion on the privacy of an individual by disclosure of private or confidential matters relating to the individual that would result from complying with the notice.

Supreme Court applications

51.(1) The person may apply to a Supreme Court judge for a decision about—

- (a) the validity of a claim of privilege under section 48; or
- (b) whether, under section 50, the person is not required to comply with the notice.

(2) The application must be made under the rules of court or, to the extent the rules do not provide, as directed by a Supreme Court judge.

(3) The application must be heard in closed court.

(4) The applicant has the burden of proof on the application.

(5) In deciding the application, a Supreme Court judge may make all orders necessary for the practical operation of this subdivision including, for example—

- (a) excusing the person from giving or producing, or ordering the person to give or produce, the whole or part of the information, document or other thing; or

(b) amending the notice.

(6) Costs of the application are to be borne by the commissioner, unless the judge orders otherwise on the ground that a claim to withhold the information, document or other thing was frivolous, vexatious or lacking in substance.

Subdivision 4—Other offences

Commissioner may require oath or affirmation

52.(1) This section applies if the commissioner gives a notice for information to a person, requiring the person to—

- (a) attend before the commissioner at a stated time and place; or
- (b) communicate with the commissioner in a stated way and at a stated time about a matter stated in the notice.

(2) The commissioner may require the person to either take an oath or make an affirmation and may administer the oath or affirmation.

(3) The person must comply with a requirement under subsection (2).

Maximum penalty—10 penalty units.

(4) If subsection (1)(b) applies, the commissioner may make arrangements appearing to the commissioner to be appropriate in the circumstances for administering the oath or affirmation to the person.

(5) Also, the commissioner may allow the person to give information by tendering a written statement, verified, if the commissioner directs, by oath or affirmation.

False or misleading statements

53. A person must not state anything to the commissioner, in response to a notice for information, that the person knows is false or misleading in a material particular.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.

False or misleading documents

54.(1) A person must not give to the commissioner, in response to a notice for information, a document containing information the person knows is false or misleading in a material particular.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a person if the person, when giving the document—

- (a) tells the commissioner, to the best of the person's ability, how it is false or misleading; and
- (b) if the person has, or can reasonably obtain, the correct information—gives the correct information.

Obstructing or improperly influencing investigation

55. A person must not obstruct or improperly influence the conduct of an investigation.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.

*Subdivision 5—Matters at end of investigation***Ending an investigation in child's best interests**

56.(1) The commissioner may stop investigating a complaint if the commissioner is satisfied it would not be in the best interests of a child or children to whom the complaint relates to continue the investigation.

(2) Subsection (1) does not limit the commissioner's power to deal with the complaint in another way.

Notice of investigation result

57. As soon as practicable after completing an investigation of a complaint, or ending an investigation of a complaint under section 56, the commissioner must give written notice of the commissioner's decision or proposed action in relation to the complaint to the complainant.

Report after investigation

58.(1) As soon as practicable after completing an investigation of a complaint, or ending an investigation of a complaint under section 56, the commissioner must prepare a written report and give a copy to—

- (a) the chief executive of the department that deals with the subject matter of the complaint; and
- (b) if the commissioner considers it appropriate—the Minister responsible for the subject matter of the complaint; and
- (c) if the report relates to a complaint about the delivery of services to children by a private service provider—the service provider.

(2) The report may recommend that a service provider (whether or not the service provider to which the complaint relates) take stated action within a stated time that is reasonable in the circumstances.

(3) If the report makes a recommendation mentioned in subsection (2) and the commissioner is not satisfied the service provider has taken the stated action within the stated time, the commissioner may give a copy of the report, and the commissioner's comments—

- (a) if the service provider is a government service provider—to the Minister responsible for the service provider or the Act under which the service provider is established; or
- (b) if the service provider is a private service provider—to—
 - (i) the Minister responsible for the government entity that provides funding to, or administers the funding for, the service provider; or
 - (ii) the local government that provides funding to the service provider.

No liability for defamation if report made in good faith

59. It is a lawful excuse for the publication of any defamatory statement made in a report that the publication is made in good faith and is, or purports to be, made for this Act.

Subdivision 6—Reports and tabling them**Application of sdiv 6**

60. This subdivision applies only to reports prepared by the commissioner under this Act.

Commissioner may ask Minister to table report

61.(1) The commissioner may, by written notice, ask the Minister to table a report in the Legislative Assembly if—

- (a) at least 28 days before finalising the report, the commissioner—
 - (i) gives a draft of the report to the Minister; and
 - (ii) tells the Minister in writing that the commissioner intends to ask the Minister to table the report; and
- (b) in finalising the report, the commissioner—
 - (i) considers any written response from the Minister about the draft; and
 - (ii) to the extent practicable, carries out any further consultation that the Minister asks for; and
 - (iii) includes in the report any written comments from the Minister that the Minister asks be included; and
- (c) the report does not include any information identifying, or that is likely to lead to the identification of, a person as a complainant or a child who is, or has been, the subject of a complaint under this Act.

(2) The Minister must table the report within 14 sitting days of receiving the notice.

(3) To remove doubt, it is declared that the Minister may not require the commissioner to change the contents of the report before it is tabled, other than by including the Minister's comments.

Confidential reports

62.(1) This section applies if the commissioner asks the Minister to table a report under section 61.

(2) The commissioner may also give the Minister a second report about the same matter, containing information that the commissioner considers should not be publicly disclosed on the ground that—

- (a) disclosure of the information may not be in the best interests of a child involved in the matter; or
- (b) disclosure of the information may adversely affect the outcome of an inquiry or investigation by a complaints agency or the police service, or an investigatory body established under a law of the Commonwealth; or
- (c) the matter dealt with in the second report is before a court.

Response to adverse comment

63.(1) The commissioner must not include in a report any comments adverse to an entity identifiable from the report, unless the entity has been given a copy of the comments and given a reasonable opportunity to respond to them.

(2) If the entity gives the commissioner a written statement in response to the comments and asks that the statement be included in the report, the commissioner must include the statement in the report.

(3) However, if the report will be made public, the commissioner is not required by subsection (2) to include a statement so far as it contains information that the commissioner considers should not be publicly disclosed for a reason mentioned in section 62(2)(a) to (c).

PART 4—COMMUNITY VISITORS

Division 1—Preliminary

Purpose of pt 4

64. The purpose of this part is to provide for community visitors to promote and protect the rights, interests and wellbeing of children residing at the following places (“**visitable sites**”)—

- (a) residential facilities;
- (b) detention centres;
- (c) authorised mental health services under the *Mental Health Act 2000*.

Division 2—Visits to visitable sites

Commissioner must arrange regular and frequent visits

65. The commissioner must make arrangements for each visitable site to be visited by a community visitor regularly and frequently.

Requirement to visit or communicate if asked

66.(1) A child residing at a visitable site may—

- (a) ask the commissioner to arrange for a community visitor to visit the site to perform the functions of a community visitor; or
- (b) ask a staff member of the site to arrange for a community visitor to visit the site to perform the functions of a community visitor; or
- (c) inform a staff member of the site that the child wishes to communicate with a stated community visitor.

(2) If subsection (1)(b) applies, the staff member must tell the commissioner about the request as soon as practicable.

Maximum penalty—10 penalty units.

(3) If subsection (1)(c) applies, the staff member must take reasonable steps to inform the community visitor as soon as practicable.

Maximum penalty—10 penalty units.

(4) A community visitor must comply with a request to visit a site, or communicate with a child residing at a site, as soon as practicable after being informed of the request.

Report after each visit

67.(1) As soon as practicable after visiting a visitable site, a community visitor must prepare, and give to the commissioner, a report about the visit.

(2) So far as the commissioner considers appropriate, the commissioner may give a copy of the report, or information from the report, to any of the following entities—

- (a) a person in charge of the site;
- (b) a government service provider responsible for regulating the site;
- (c) the chief executive of an entity responsible for operating the site;
- (d) the chief executive of a department responsible for providing funding or services to the site;
- (e) the chief executive of a department responsible for providing services to children residing at the site;
- (f) a child who is a subject of the report and who asks for the copy or information.

(3) However, the commissioner must not give confidential information about a person (the “**relevant person**”) to an entity, other than the relevant person, under subsection (2) unless—

- (a) the relevant person authorises the commissioner to give the information; and
- (b) the relevant person is an adult when giving the authorisation.

Division 3—Functions and powers

Subdivision 1—Functions

Functions

68.(1) A community visitor has the following functions relating to children residing at visitable sites—

- (a) to develop trusting and supportive relationships with the children, so far as is possible;
- (b) to advocate on behalf of the children by listening to, giving voice to, and facilitating the resolution of, their concerns and grievances;
- (c) to seek information about, and facilitate access by the children to, support services appropriate to their needs provided by service providers;
- (d) to assess the adequacy of information given to the children about their rights;
- (e) to inspect the sites and assess their appropriateness for the accommodation of the children or the delivery of services to them, having regard to relevant State and Commonwealth laws, policies and standards;
- (f) to observe the treatment of the children, including the extent to which their needs are met by staff of the sites;
- (g) to assess the physical and emotional wellbeing of the children;
- (h) to assess the morale of the staff of the sites;
- (i) for detention centres—to assess whether the programs for the release of children subject to detention orders adequately and appropriately prepare them for release.

(2) A community visitor also has the function of giving advice and reports to the commissioner about anything relating to the visitor's functions and powers.

Subdivision 2—Power of entry to visitable sites**Power of entry**

69.(1) A community visitor may enter a visitable site if—

- (a) a person in charge of the site consents to the entry; or
- (b) it is a public place and the entry is made when it is open to the public; or
- (c) the entry is authorised by a warrant.

(2) For the purpose of asking a person in charge for consent to enter, a community visitor may, without the person's consent or a warrant—

- (a) enter land around the site to an extent that is reasonable to contact the person; or
- (b) enter part of the site the community visitor reasonably considers members of the public ordinarily are allowed to enter when they wish to contact the person.

Consent to entry

70.(1) This section applies if a community visitor intends to ask a person in charge of a visitable site to consent to the community visitor entering the site under section 69(1)(a).

(2) Before asking for the consent, the community visitor must tell the person—

- (a) the purpose of the entry; and
- (b) that the person is not required to consent.

(3) If the consent is given, the community visitor may ask the person to sign an acknowledgment of the consent.

(4) The acknowledgment must state—

- (a) that the person has been told—
 - (i) the purpose of the entry; and
 - (ii) that the person is not required to consent; and

- (b) the purpose of the entry; and
- (c) that the person gives the community visitor consent to enter the place and exercise powers under this division; and
- (d) the time and date the consent was given.

(5) If the person signs the acknowledgment, the community visitor must immediately give a copy to the person.

(6) A court must find that a person in charge of a visitable site did not consent to a community visitor entering the site under this division if—

- (a) an issue arises in a proceeding before the court whether a person in charge of the site consented to the entry under section 69(1)(a); and
- (b) an acknowledgment is not produced in evidence for the entry; and
- (c) it is not proved by the person relying on the lawfulness of the entry that a person in charge of the site consented to the entry.

Application for warrant

71.(1) A community visitor may apply to a magistrate for a warrant for a visitable site.

(2) The application must be sworn and state the grounds on which the warrant is sought.

(3) The magistrate may refuse to consider the application until the community visitor gives the magistrate all the information the magistrate requires about the application in the way the magistrate requires.

Example—

The magistrate may require additional information supporting the application to be given by statutory declaration.

Issue of warrant

72.(1) The magistrate may issue a warrant only if the magistrate is satisfied the community visitor can not properly carry out the visitor's functions without gaining entry to the site.

(2) The warrant must state—

- (a) that a stated community visitor may, with necessary and reasonable help and force—
 - (i) enter the visitable site and any other place necessary for entry; and
 - (ii) exercise the community visitor's powers under this division; and
- (b) the hours of the day or night when the site may be entered; and
- (c) the date, within 14 days after the warrant's issue, the warrant ends.

Warrants—procedure before entry

73.(1) This section applies if a community visitor named in a warrant issued under this subdivision for a visitable site is intending to enter the site under the warrant.

(2) Before entering the site, the community visitor must do or make a reasonable attempt to do the following things—

- (a) identify himself or herself to a person in charge of the site by producing the community visitor's identity card or another document evidencing the community visitor's appointment;
- (b) give the person a copy of the warrant;
- (c) tell the person the community visitor is permitted by the warrant to enter the place;
- (d) give the person an opportunity to allow the community visitor immediate entry to the place without using force.

Subdivision 3—Other powers

Related powers

74. After entering a visitable site, a community visitor may—

- (a) inspect the site; or

- (b) inspect or copy a document held at the site that relates to a child residing at the site or the operations of the site.

Powers in relation to staff of sites

75.(1) A community visitor may, at any reasonable time, require a staff member of a visitable site to give the visitor reasonable help to—

- (a) obtain information about the site and its operation; or
- (b) have access to a child residing at the site; or
- (c) talk with a child residing at the site, out of the hearing of staff and management of the site and other persons at the site; or
- (d) exercise the visitor's powers under section 74.

(2) The staff member must comply with the requirement, unless the staff member has a reasonable excuse.

Maximum penalty—40 penalty units.

(3) If the requirement is to give information or produce a document, it is a reasonable excuse for the staff member not to comply with the requirement that complying with the requirement might tend to incriminate the staff member.

(4) A staff member does not commit an offence against subsection (2) unless, when making the requirement, the visitor warns the staff member it is an offence to fail to comply with the requirement unless the staff member has a reasonable excuse.

Power to require documents to be produced

76.(1) A community visitor may require a staff member of a visitable site to produce for inspection, at a reasonable time and place nominated by the visitor, a document held at the site that relates to a child residing at the site or the operations of the site.

(2) The staff member must produce the document, unless the staff member has a reasonable excuse.

Maximum penalty—40 penalty units.

(3) A staff member does not commit an offence against subsection (2)

unless, when making the relevant requirement, the visitor warns the staff member it is an offence to fail to comply with the requirement unless the staff member has a reasonable excuse.

(4) The visitor may keep the document to copy it.

(5) If the visitor copies the document, the visitor may require the staff member responsible for keeping the document to certify the copy as a true copy of the document.

(6) The visitor must return the document to the staff member as soon as practicable after copying it.

(7) However, if a requirement is made of the staff member under subsection (5), the visitor may keep the document until the staff member complies with the requirement.

Subdivision 4—Exercise of powers

Child's views and wishes

77.(1) To the greatest extent practicable, a community visitor must seek, and take into account, the views and wishes of a child residing at a visitable site before—

- (a) asking a staff member of the site a question about the child; or
- (b) inspecting, taking extracts from, or making copies of, a document held at the site that relates to the child.

(2) The child's views and wishes may be expressed orally, in writing or in another way, including, for example, by conduct.

(3) The child's views and wishes should be taken into account in a way that has regard to the child's age and maturity.

Community visitor to respect privacy of children residing at a site

78. In exercising a power or performing a function in relation to a visitable site, a community visitor must act in a way that—

- (a) preserves, as far as practicable, the privacy of children residing at the site; and

- (b) respects the wishes of any of the children who does not wish to communicate with the visitor.

Commissioner's directions about the exercise of powers

79. A community visitor is subject to the commissioner's directions in the exercise of a power.

Security directions about visiting detention centres

80.(1) The chief executive of the department in which the *Juvenile Justice Act 1992* is administered may give directions to a community visitor, about the conduct of visits to a detention centre, that the chief executive considers necessary for maintaining the security of the centre.

(2) The community visitor must comply with the directions when visiting the centre.

Division 4—Appointment of community visitors

Appointment

81.(1) The commissioner may appoint community visitors.

(2) An appointment may be on a full-time, part-time or casual basis.

(3) A person is eligible for appointment as a community visitor only if the commissioner considers the person has—

- (a) the knowledge, experience and skills needed to perform a community visitor's functions; and
- (b) a demonstrated commitment to upholding the principles underlying this Act.⁷

(4) In appointing community visitors, the commissioner must take into account the desirability of the community visitors reflecting the social and cultural diversity of children in Queensland.

⁷ See section 6 (Principles underlying this Act).

(5) A person may not hold office as a community visitor while the person is—

- (a) a member of the police service; or
- (b) a public service employee employed in the department in which the *Child Protection Act 1999* is administered or a department whose primary responsibilities include health, disability services or correctional institutions; or
- (c) engaged in any capacity in relation to a correctional institution, other than as an official visitor under the *Corrective Services Act 1988*.

(6) A community visitor is a member of the commission's staff.

(7) A community visitor is appointed under this Act and not under the *Public Service Act 1996*.

Duration of appointment

82.(1) A community visitor—

- (a) holds office for the period, not more than 2 years, stated in the appointment; and
- (b) is eligible for reappointment; and
- (c) may resign at any time by giving a signed notice of resignation to the commissioner.

(2) The commissioner may terminate the appointment of a community visitor if the commissioner is satisfied the community visitor—

- (a) has become physically or mentally incapable of satisfactorily performing the duties of a community visitor; or
- (b) has performed the community visitor's duties carelessly, incompetently or inefficiently; or
- (c) is guilty of misconduct that could warrant dismissal from the public service if the community visitor were a public service officer; or
- (d) has been found guilty of an offence the commissioner reasonably

considers makes the person inappropriate to perform the duties of a community visitor.

(3) The commissioner must terminate the appointment of a community visitor if the commissioner is satisfied the community visitor is a person who may not hold office as a community visitor under section 81(5).

Terms of appointment

83.(1) The commissioner must decide the remuneration and allowances payable to community visitors.

(2) A community visitor is entitled to be paid the remuneration and allowances decided by the commissioner.

(3) To the extent this Act does not state the terms on which a community visitor holds office, the community visitor holds office on the terms decided by the commissioner.

Division 5—Identity cards

Identity card

84.(1) The commissioner must give each community visitor an identity card.

(2) The identity card must—

- (a) contain a recent photograph of the visitor; and
- (b) be signed by the visitor; and
- (c) identify the person as a visitor for this Act.

(3) This section does not prevent the issue of a single identity card to a person for this Act and other Acts.

Failure to return identity card

85. A person who ceases to be a community visitor must return the person's identity card to the commissioner as soon as possible (but within

21 days) after the person ceases to be a community visitor, unless the person has a reasonable excuse.

Maximum penalty—10 penalty units.

Production or display of identity card

86. A community visitor may exercise a power in relation to another person only if the visitor—

- (a) first produces his or her identity card for the person's inspection; or
- (b) has the visitor's identity card displayed so it is clearly visible to the other person.

Division 6—Miscellaneous

Obstruction of visitor in exercise of powers

87. A staff member of a visitable site must not obstruct a community visitor in the exercise of a power, unless the staff member has a reasonable excuse.

Maximum penalty—50 penalty units.

Privacy of correspondence between community visitor and residents

88. A staff member of a visitable site must not open, read, copy or remove any correspondence sent, or being sent, between a community visitor and a child residing at the site, unless the child asks the staff member to do so.

Maximum penalty—20 penalty units.

Annual report by commissioner

89. The commissioner must include in the commission's annual report for a financial year a report on the operations of community visitors during the year.

PART 5—ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Establishment

90. The commissioner may establish as many of the following committees as the commissioner considers appropriate—

- (a) expert advisory committees;
- (b) youth advisory committees;
- (c) other advisory committees.

Membership

91.(1) An advisory committee has the membership decided by the commissioner.

(2) The commissioner may appoint a person to an expert advisory committee only if the commissioner is satisfied the person has expertise, relevant to children, in the field of the arts, child protection, child psychology and development, disabilities, education, employment, health, law, sports or vocational education and training.

Functions

92.(1) An advisory committee's function is to help the commissioner effectively and efficiently perform the commissioner's functions by—

- (a) for an expert advisory committee—advising the commissioner on matters in relation to which the committee has expertise; or
- (b) for a youth advisory committee—advising the commissioner, from a youth perspective, on matters relevant to this Act; or
- (c) for another committee—advising the commissioner on matters referred to it by the commissioner.

(2) It is not an advisory committee's function to advise the commissioner on the day-to-day management of the commission.

Dissolution

93. The commissioner may dissolve an advisory committee at any time.

Other matters

94. The commissioner may decide matters about an advisory committee that are not provided for under this Act, including, for example, the way a committee must conduct meetings or report to the commissioner.

**PART 6—EMPLOYMENT SCREENING FOR
CHILD-RELATED EMPLOYMENT***Division 1—Preliminary***Purpose of pt 6**

95. The purpose of this part is to ensure that only suitable persons are employed in certain child-related employment or carry on certain child-related businesses.

Safety and wellbeing of children to be paramount consideration

96. Without limiting section 6,⁸ the paramount consideration in making a decision under this part is a child's entitlement to be cared for in a way that protects the child from harm and promotes the child's wellbeing.

Employment and businesses regulated by this part

97.(1) This part concerns—

- (a) employment of a type mentioned in schedule 1, part 1 (“regulated employment”); and

⁸ Section 6 (Principles underlying this Act)

(b) the carrying on of a business of a type mentioned in schedule 1, part 2 (a “**regulated business**”).

(2) This part does not apply to the unpaid employment of a child.

This part applies despite the Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986

98. This part applies to a person despite anything in the *Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986*.

What is employment

99.(1) For this part, a person is employing another person if the first person has an agreement with the other person for the other person to carry out work.

(2) It is immaterial for this section—

- (a) whether the agreement is written or unwritten; and
- (b) whether the work is carried out voluntarily or for financial reward; and
- (c) what a person’s motivation is for carrying out the work; and
- (d) the time for which the person is engaged to carry out the work.

Examples of ‘employment’—

1. A person is engaged by a school as a cleaner under a written contract of employment.
2. A person orally agrees with the manager of a club to coach a children’s sporting team during a season.
3. The manager of a counselling organisation agrees with an adult student that the student attend the organisation’s office each day during a semester and carry out various duties, on a voluntary basis, in order to obtain work experience.
4. A person is engaged by another person to provide religious instruction to children for 1 day.

Division 2—Issue of suitability notices**Application for notice—regulated employment**

100.(1) A person (the “**employer**”) who proposes to start employing, or continue employing, another person (the “**employee**”) in regulated employment, may apply to the commissioner for a suitability notice stating whether the employee is a suitable person for child-related employment.

(2) The application must be—

- (a) in the approved form; and
- (b) signed by, or on behalf of, the employer; and
- (c) signed by the employee; and
- (d) accompanied by the prescribed fee.

(3) The approved form must include provision for—

- (a) identifying information about the employee; and
- (b) certification by the employer that the employer has complied with subsection (4); and
- (c) the employee’s consent to employment screening under this part.

(4) Before making the application, the employer must sight the documents, relating to proof of the employee’s identity, prescribed under a regulation.

(5) On receiving the application, the commissioner may ask the employer or employee, orally or in writing, for further information that the commissioner reasonably needs to establish the employee’s identity.⁹

Application for notice—regulated business

101.(1) A person who proposes to carry on, or continue carrying on, a regulated business may apply to the commissioner for a suitability notice stating whether the person is a suitable person for child-related employment.

⁹ See section 123 (Withdrawal of employee’s consent to employment screening) in relation to an employee failing to comply with a written request for further identifying information.

(2) The application must be—

- (a) in the approved form; and
- (b) signed by the person; and
- (c) accompanied by the prescribed fee.

(3) The approved form must include provision for—

- (a) identifying information about the person; and
- (b) certification by a prescribed person that the prescribed person has sighted the documents, relating to proof of the person's identity, prescribed under a regulation.

(4) The person may withdraw the application at any time before it is decided.

(5) On receiving the application, the commissioner may ask the person, orally or in writing, for further information that the commissioner reasonably needs to establish the person's identity.

(6) The person is taken to have withdrawn the application if—

- (a) the commissioner gives the person a notice—
 - (i) asking the person to provide, within a reasonable stated time, stated information that the commissioner reasonably needs to establish the person's identity; and
 - (ii) warning the person that, if the person does not comply with the request, the person's application will be taken to have been withdrawn; and
- (b) the person does not comply with the request within the stated time; and
- (c) the commissioner can not establish with certainty the person's identity; and
- (d) the commissioner gives the person a notice stating that the person is taken to have withdrawn the application.

(7) In this section—

“prescribed person” means a justice, commissioner for declarations, lawyer or police officer.

Decision on application

102.(1) If an application for a suitability notice about a person is made under section 100 or 101, the commissioner must decide the application by issuing—

- (a) a suitability notice declaring the person to be a suitable person for child-related employment (a **“positive notice”**); or
- (b) a suitability notice declaring the person to be an unsuitable person for child-related employment (a **“negative notice”**).

(2) If the commissioner is not aware of any convictions or charges of the person for any offence, the commissioner must issue a positive notice.

(3) If the commissioner is not aware of any convictions of the person for any offence but is aware of a charge of the person for an offence, the commissioner must issue a positive notice unless the commissioner is satisfied it is an exceptional case in which it would not be in the best interests of children for the commissioner to issue a positive notice.

(4) If the commissioner is aware of a conviction of the person for a serious offence, the commissioner must issue a negative notice unless the commissioner is satisfied it is an exceptional case in which it would not harm the best interests of children for the commissioner to issue a positive notice.

(5) If the commissioner is aware of a conviction or charge of the person for an offence, the commissioner must decide the application having regard to the following matters relating to the commission, or alleged commission, of the offence by the person—

- (a) whether it is a conviction or a charge;
- (b) whether the offence is a serious offence;
- (c) when the offence was committed or is alleged to have been committed;
- (d) the nature of the offence and its relevance to child-related employment;
- (e) anything else the commissioner reasonably considers to be relevant to the assessment of the person.

(6) On deciding the application, the commission must issue the suitability

notice to the person to whom it relates and, if the application is made by the person's employer, must give a copy of the notice to the employer.

(7) A negative notice issued to the person must be accompanied by a notice stating—

- (a) the reasons for the commissioner's decision on the application; and
- (b) that, within 28 days after receiving the notice, the person may apply to the Children Services Tribunal to have the decision reviewed; and
- (c) how the person may apply for the review.

Commissioner to invite submissions from person about criminal history

103.(1) If the commissioner proposes to decide the application by issuing a negative notice, the commissioner must give the person a written notice—

- (a) stating the information about the person's criminal history of which the commissioner is aware; and
- (b) inviting the person to give the commissioner, within a stated time, a submission (oral or written) about the information or about the person's suitability for child-related employment.

(2) The stated time must be reasonable and, in any case, at least 7 days after the commissioner gives the notice to the person.

(3) Before deciding the application, the commissioner must consider any submission received from the person within the stated time.

Currency of notice

104.(1) A negative notice remains current until it is cancelled under division 4.

(2) A positive notice remains current for 2 years after it is issued, unless it is earlier cancelled under division 4.

Division 3—Obligations and offences relating to suitability notices***Subdivision 1—Regulated employment*****Continuing employment of certain regular employees**

105.(1) This section applies if—

- (a) a person (the “**employee**”) is employed in regulated employment under an agreement with another person (the “**employer**”); and
- (b) in the course of the employment, or in the course of regulated employment under any other previous agreements with the employer made within the previous year, the employee has carried out work—
 - (i) at least once a week over the course of 1 month; or
 - (ii) at least once a fortnight over the course of 2 months; or
 - (iii) at least once a month over the course of 6 months; and
- (c) the employee does not have a current positive notice.

(2) The employer must not continue to employ the employee in regulated employment unless the employer has applied for a suitability notice, or further suitability notice, about the employee.

Maximum penalty—10 penalty units.

Starting employment of certain regular employees

106.(1) This section applies if—

- (a) a person (the “**employee**”) is not employed in regulated employment but has previously been employed in regulated employment under 1 or more agreements with another person (the “**employer**”); and
- (b) in the course of the regulated employment under the previous agreement or agreements, the employee has carried out work—
 - (i) at least once a week over the course of 1 month; or
 - (ii) at least once a fortnight over the course of 2 months; or

- (iii) at least once a month over the course of 6 months; and
- (c) it is less than 1 year since the employee last carried out the regulated employment mentioned in paragraph (b); and
- (d) the employee does not have a current positive notice.

(2) The employer must not employ the employee in regulated employment unless the employer has applied for a suitability notice about the employee.

Maximum penalty—10 penalty units.

Prohibited employment

107.(1) This section applies if a person (the “**employee**”) does not have a current positive notice.

(2) A person (the “**employer**”) must not employ, or continue to employ, the employee in regulated employment if—

- (a) the employer has applied for a suitability notice about the employee and has been notified by the commissioner that the employee has withdrawn the employee’s consent to employment screening under this part; or
- (b) the employer is aware that the employee has a conviction for a serious offence; or
- (c) the employer is aware that a negative notice has been issued to the employee and is current.

Maximum penalty—

- (a) for paragraph (a)—10 penalty units; or
- (b) for paragraphs (b) and (c)—100 penalty units.

Unsuitable person not to apply for, or start or continue in, child-related employment

108. A person must not apply for, or start or continue in, regulated employment if a negative notice has been issued to the person and is current.

Maximum penalty—

- (a) if the person has a conviction for a serious offence involving a child—500 penalty units or 5 years imprisonment; or
- (b) if the person has a conviction for a serious offence that did not involve a child—200 penalty units or 2 years imprisonment; or
- (c) otherwise—100 penalty units or 1 year’s imprisonment.

Subdivision 2—Regulated business

Carrying on regulated business

109. A person must not carry on a regulated business unless the person has a current positive notice.

Maximum penalty—

- (a) if the person has a conviction for a serious offence involving a child—500 penalty units or 5 years imprisonment; or
- (b) if the person has a conviction for a serious offence that did not involve a child—200 penalty units or 2 years imprisonment; or
- (c) if paragraphs (a) and (b) do not apply and a negative notice has been issued to the person and the notice is current—100 penalty units or 1 year’s imprisonment; or
- (d) otherwise—10 penalty units.

Subdivision 3—Changes in criminal history

Acquiring a criminal history

110. For a person who does not have a criminal history, there is taken to be a change in the person’s criminal history if the person acquires a criminal history.

Effect of conviction for serious offence

111.(1) This section applies to a person with a current positive notice if the person is convicted of a serious offence.

(2) Until the notice is cancelled and a further positive notice is issued to the person, the following applies—

- (a) if the person is employed in regulated employment, the person must not carry out any work in the course of the employment;
- (b) if the person is not in regulated employment, the person must not start regulated employment;
- (c) the person must not start or continue carrying out a regulated business.

Maximum penalty—

- (a) if the conviction is for a serious offence involving a child—500 penalty units or 5 years imprisonment; or
- (b) otherwise—200 penalty units or 2 years imprisonment.

Change in criminal history of employee

112.(1) This section applies to a person employed in regulated employment if there is a change in the person's criminal history.

(2) The person must immediately disclose to the person's employer that there has been a change in the person's criminal history.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.

(3) On receiving the disclosure, the employer must not continue to employ the person in regulated employment without applying for a suitability notice, or further suitability notice, about the person.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.

(4) To remove doubt, it is declared that—

- (a) it is not a requirement of subsection (2) that the person give the person's employer any information about the change other than that a change has happened; and

- (b) it is not a requirement of subsection (3) that the employer stop employing the person on receiving the disclosure.

Change in criminal history of person carrying on regulated business

113.(1) This section applies to a person carrying on a regulated business if there is a change in the person's criminal history.

- (2) The person must immediately apply for a further suitability notice.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.

Change in criminal history of other persons

114.(1) This section applies if—

- (a) a person has a current positive notice; and
- (b) there has been a change in the person's criminal history since the notice was issued; and
- (c) the person is not employed in regulated employment or carrying on a regulated business.

(2) Before starting regulated employment, the person must notify the person's proposed employer that there has been a change in the person's criminal history since the person's current suitability notice was issued.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.

(3) On receiving the disclosure, the employer must not employ the person in regulated employment without applying for a further suitability notice about the person.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.

(4) Before starting to carry on a regulated business, the person must apply for a further suitability notice.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.

Subdivision 4—General**False or misleading disclosure**

115. A person must not—

- (a) give another person who is proposing to employ the person in regulated employment information for this part that is false or misleading in a material particular; or
- (b) state anything to the commissioner for this part that the person knows is false or misleading in a material particular.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units or 2 years imprisonment.

False or misleading documents

116.(1) A person must not give the commissioner a document for this part containing information the person knows is false or misleading in a material particular.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units or 2 years imprisonment.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a person if the person, when giving the document—

- (a) tells the commissioner, to the best of the person's ability, how it is false or misleading; and
- (b) if the person has, or can reasonably obtain, the correct information—gives the correct information.

Return of notice to commissioner

117.(1) This section applies to a person with a current positive notice if—

- (a) the person is convicted of a serious offence; or
- (b) the commissioner cancels the notice and issues a negative notice to the person.

(2) The person must immediately return the positive notice to the commissioner, unless the person has a reasonable excuse.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.

Division 4—Cancellation and replacement of suitability notices**Cancellation of suitability notice on application**

118.(1) This section applies if the commissioner has issued a negative notice to a person and the notice is current.

(2) The person may apply to the commissioner to cancel the notice.

(3) The application may not be made less than 2 years after the issue of the notice or any previous application by the person under this section.

(4) The application must be—

- (a) in the approved form; and
- (b) signed by the person; and
- (c) accompanied by the prescribed fee.

(5) The person may state in the application anything the person considers relevant to the commissioner’s decision about whether the person is a suitable person for child-related employment including, in particular, any change in the person’s circumstances since the negative notice was issued.

(6) Sections 102 and 103 apply to the application as if—

- (a) the application were an application for a suitability notice; and
- (b) a reference in the provisions to issuing a positive notice were a reference to granting the application; and
- (c) a reference in the provisions to issuing a negative notice were a reference to refusing the application.

(7) If the commissioner grants the application, the commissioner must cancel the suitability notice to which the application relates and issue a positive notice to the person.

Cancellation of notice—wrong or incomplete information

119.(1) The commissioner may cancel a suitability notice (the “**first notice**”) and substitute another suitability notice (the “**new notice**”) if the commissioner is satisfied—

- (a) the decision on the application for the first notice was based on wrong or incomplete information; and
- (b) based on the correct or complete information, the commissioner should issue the new notice.

(2) However, if the commissioner proposes to substitute a negative notice, the commissioner must first comply with section 103.

(3) An application for cancellation of the first notice may be made by the person about whom it was issued or the person who applied for it.

(4) Subsection (1) applies whether or not anyone applies for the cancellation.

(5) The commissioner must issue the new notice to the person about whom it is issued and, if the applicant is someone else, give a copy to the applicant.

Cancellation of notice on issue of new notice

120.(1) This section applies if the commissioner receives an application for a further suitability notice about a person for whom there is a current suitability notice.

(2) The commissioner must cancel the current suitability notice when issuing the further suitability notice.

Division 5—Miscellaneous

Person may apply for review of decision

121.(1) A person may apply to the Children Services Tribunal to have either of the following decisions by the commissioner reviewed—

- (a) a decision to issue a negative notice about the person;
- (b) a decision refusing an application to cancel a negative notice about the person.

(2) If a person applies under subsection (1) to have a decision reviewed, the tribunal may not stay the operation of the decision.

Commissioner may obtain information from police commissioner

122.(1) This section applies to a person if—

- (a) the person has a current positive notice; or
- (b) the commissioner has received an application for a suitability notice about the person and the application has not been withdrawn and the person has not withdrawn his or her consent to employment screening under this part; or
- (c) the person has applied to the commissioner to cancel a negative notice about the person.

(2) The commissioner may ask the police commissioner for information, or for access to the police commissioner's records, to enable the commissioner to learn what the person's current criminal history (if any) is.

(3) If the person has a criminal history, the commissioner may ask the police commissioner for a brief description of the circumstances of a conviction or charge mentioned in the criminal history.

(4) The police commissioner must comply with a request under this section.

(5) However, the duty imposed on the police commissioner to comply with a request applies only to information in the police commissioner's possession or to which the police commissioner has access.

Withdrawal of employee's consent to employment screening

123.(1) This section applies if the commissioner—

- (a) has received an application from a person (the **"employer"**) for a suitability notice about another person (the **"employee"**); and
- (b) has not yet issued the suitability notice.

(2) The employee may give a written notice to the commissioner withdrawing the employee's consent to employment screening under this part.

(3) The employee is taken to have withdrawn his or her consent to employment screening under this part if—

- (a) the commissioner gives the employee a notice—
 - (i) asking the employee to provide, within a reasonable stated time, stated information that the commissioner reasonably needs to establish the employee’s identity; and
 - (ii) warning the employee that, if the employee does not comply with the request, the commissioner may give the employee a notice of deemed withdrawal; and
- (b) the employee does not comply with the request within the stated time; and
- (c) the commissioner can not establish with certainty the employee’s identity; and
- (d) the commissioner gives the employee and the employer a notice of deemed withdrawal relating to the employee.

(4) If the employee withdraws his or her consent to employment screening under this part before the commissioner issues a suitability notice about the employee—

- (a) the commissioner must not issue the suitability notice; and
- (b) if the employee withdraws consent by giving a written notice to the commissioner, the commissioner must give written notice of the withdrawal to the employer.

(5) In this section—

“notice of deemed withdrawal”, relating to the employee, means a written notice stating that the employee is taken to have withdrawn his or her consent to employment screening under this part.

Compliance with requirement to end, or not start, a person’s regulated employment

124.(1) This section applies if it would be a contravention of a provision of this part for a person (the **“employer”**) to employ another person (the **“employee”**) in regulated employment.

(2) The employer must comply with the provision despite another Act or law or any industrial award or agreement.

(3) The employer does not incur any liability because, in compliance with

the provision, the employer does not employ the employee in regulated employment.

Guidelines for dealing with information

125.(1) The commissioner must make guidelines, consistent with this Act, for dealing with information obtained by the commissioner under this part.

(2) The purpose of the guidelines is to ensure—

- (a) natural justice is afforded to the persons about whom the information is obtained; and
- (b) only relevant information is used in making employment-screening decisions; and
- (c) employment-screening decisions, based on the information, are made consistently.

(3) The commissioner must give a copy of the guidelines to a person on request.

Use of criminal history information

126. The commissioner must not use information obtained under this part, about a person's criminal history, other than for this part.

Division 6—Transitional

Initial application of this part

127.(1) For 1 year after this part commences, it does not apply to the unpaid employment of an adult.

(2) This part does not apply to the employment of a person under an agreement entered into before the time this part would otherwise start to apply to the employment.

(3) This section applies subject to section 128.

Application for suitability notice for current employee

128.(1) This section applies if—

- (a) on the commencement of division 3, subdivision 1, a person (the “**employer**”) was employing another person (the “**employee**”) in regulated employment; and
- (b) the employer knows, or reasonably suspects, the employee has a criminal history that may make the employee unsuitable for child-related employment.

Example—

An allegation is made to the employer about the employee. The matter of the allegation is relevant to the employee’s suitability for child-related employment and the employer reasonably considers the allegation to be reliable.

(2) The employer may apply to the commissioner for a suitability notice about the employee.

(3) The application must be—

- (a) in the approved form; and
- (b) signed by, or on behalf of, the employer; and
- (c) accompanied by the prescribed fee.

(4) The approved form must include provision for—

- (a) identifying information about the employee; and
- (b) the information supporting the employer’s knowledge or suspicion mentioned in subsection (1)(b).

(5) On receiving the application, the commissioner may give a notice to the employee stating—

- (a) the information mentioned in subsection (4)(b); and
- (b) that the commissioner proposes to ask the police commissioner for access to the police commissioner’s records to enable the commissioner to learn—
 - (i) whether the employee has a criminal history; and
 - (ii) if the employee has a criminal history, what the criminal history is; and

- (c) inviting the employee to give the commissioner, within a stated time, a submission (oral or written) about the matters raised in the application.

(6) The stated time mentioned in subsection (5)(c) must be reasonable and, in any case, at least 7 days after the commissioner gives the notice to the employee.

(7) The commissioner may proceed to deal with the application as if it had been made under section 100 if—

- (a) the commissioner gives the employee a notice under subsection (5); and
- (b) having regard to the information in the application and any submissions received from the employee in response to the notice given to the employee, the commissioner is satisfied—
 - (i) the employer has a reasonable basis for the knowledge or suspicion mentioned in subsection (1)(b); and
 - (ii) that, if the employee has the criminal history mentioned in the application, the commissioner would be likely to decide the employee is unsuitable for child-related employment; and
- (c) the employee is still employed by the employer in regulated employment.

(8) If the commissioner proceeds to deal with the application under subsection (7), this Act applies to the application as if it had been made under section 100.

PART 7—CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECKS OF COMMISSION’S STAFF

Division 1—Preliminary

Purpose of pt 7

129. The purpose of this part is to enable the commissioner to obtain the criminal history of, and related information about, a person who is or who proposes to be a member of the commission’s staff (a “**staff member**”), so that the commissioner can assess the person’s suitability to be, or continue to be, a staff member.

This part applies despite the Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986

130. This part applies to a person despite anything in the *Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986*.

Commissioner to advise of duties of disclosure etc.

131. Before a person is engaged as a staff member, the commissioner must tell the person—

- (a) of the person’s duties of disclosure under this part; and
- (b) that the commissioner may obtain the information about the person mentioned in section 136; and
- (c) that guidelines for dealing with information obtained by the commissioner under this part are available from the commissioner on request.

Division 2—Disclosure of criminal history

Person seeking to be a staff member must disclose criminal history

132. A person seeking to be a staff member must disclose to the

commissioner, before being engaged—

- (a) whether or not the person has a criminal history; and
- (b) if the person has a criminal history—the person's complete criminal history.

Staff member must disclose changes in criminal history

133.(1) If there is a change in a staff member's criminal history, the staff member must immediately disclose to the commissioner the details of the change.

(2) For a staff member who does not have a criminal history, there is taken to be a change in the staff member's criminal history if the staff member acquires a criminal history.

Requirements for disclosure

134.(1) To comply with section 132 or 133, a person must give the commissioner a disclosure in the approved form.

(2) The information disclosed by a person about a conviction or charge of an offence in the person's criminal history must include—

- (a) the existence of the conviction or charge; and
- (b) when the offence was committed or alleged to have been committed; and
- (c) the details of the offence or alleged offence; and
- (d) for a conviction, whether or not a conviction was recorded and the sentence imposed on the person.

False or misleading disclosure or failure to disclose

135.(1) A person must not—

- (a) give the commissioner a disclosure for this division that is false or misleading in a material particular; or
- (b) fail to give the commissioner a disclosure as required under section 133, unless the person has a reasonable excuse.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units or 2 years imprisonment.

(2) Subsection (1)(a) does not apply to a person if the person, when giving the document—

- (a) tells the commissioner, to the best of the person's ability, how it is false or misleading; and
- (b) if the person has, or can reasonably obtain, the correct information—gives the correct information.

Division 3—Commissioner may obtain information from other entities about criminal history and certain investigations

Commissioner may obtain report from police commissioner

136.(1) This section applies to a person who—

- (a) is a staff member; or
- (b) seeks to be a staff member and has given the commissioner a disclosure for the purposes of division 2.

(2) The commissioner may ask the police commissioner to give the commissioner the following information about the person—

- (a) a written report about the person's criminal history;
- (b) a brief description of the circumstances of a conviction or charge mentioned in the person's criminal history;
- (c) information about an investigation relating to the possible commission of a serious offence by the person.

(3) Subject to subsections (4) and (5), the police commissioner must comply with the request.

(4) The duty imposed on the police commissioner to comply with the request—

- (a) applies only to information in the police commissioner's possession or to which the police commissioner has access; and
- (b) in relation to information mentioned in subsection (2)(c)—applies only to information recorded on a central electronic database kept

by the police commissioner.

(5) The police commissioner must not give information about an investigation relating to the possible commission of a serious offence by the person if—

- (a) the police commissioner is reasonably satisfied that giving the information—
 - (i) may prejudice or otherwise hinder an investigation to which the information may be relevant; or
 - (ii) may lead to the identification of an informant; or
 - (iii) may affect the safety of a police officer, complainant or other person; or
- (b) for an investigation that has been completed—the investigation has not led, and the police commissioner is reasonably satisfied it is unlikely to lead, to a reasonable suspicion that the person committed a serious offence; or
- (c) for an investigation that has not been completed—the police commissioner is reasonably satisfied the investigation is unlikely to lead to a reasonable suspicion that the person committed a serious offence.

Prosecuting authority to notify commissioner about committal, conviction etc.

137.(1) This section applies if a person is charged with an indictable offence and the police commissioner or the director of public prosecutions (a “**prosecuting authority**”) is aware that the person is a staff member.

(2) If the person is committed by a court for trial for an indictable offence, the prosecuting authority must, within 7 days after the committal, give written notice to the commissioner of the following—

- (a) the person’s name;
- (b) the court;
- (c) particulars of the offence;
- (d) the date of the committal;

(e) the court to which the person was committed.

(3) If the person is convicted before a court of an indictable offence, the prosecuting authority must, within 7 days after the conviction, give written notice to the commissioner of the following—

- (a) the person's name;
- (b) the court;
- (c) particulars of the offence;
- (d) the date of the conviction;
- (e) the sentence imposed by the court.

(4) If the person is convicted of an indictable offence, and has appealed the conviction, and the appeal is finally decided or has otherwise ended, the prosecuting authority must, within 7 days after the decision or the day the appeal otherwise ends, give written notice to the commissioner of the following—

- (a) the person's name;
- (b) particulars of the offence;
- (c) the date of the decision or other ending of the appeal;
- (d) if the appeal was decided—
 - (i) the court in which it was decided; and
 - (ii) particulars of the decision.

(5) If the prosecution process ends without the person being convicted of an indictable offence, the prosecuting authority must, within 7 days after the end, give written notice to the commissioner about the following—

- (a) the person's name;
- (b) if relevant, the court in which the prosecution process ended;
- (c) particulars of the alleged offence;
- (d) the date the prosecution process ended.

(6) For subsection (5), a prosecution process ends if—

- (a) an indictment is presented against the person and—
 - (i) a nolle prosequi is entered on the indictment; or

- (ii) the person is acquitted; or
- (b) the prosecution process has otherwise ended.

(7) A reference in this section to a conviction of an indictable offence includes a summary conviction of an indictable offence.

Division 4—Controls on use of information about criminal history and certain investigations

Use of information obtained under this part

138.(1) This section applies to the commissioner in considering information about a person received under this part.

(2) The information must not be used for any purpose other than assessing the person's suitability to be, or continue to be, a staff member.

(3) When making the assessment, the commissioner must have regard to the following matters relating to information about the commission, or alleged or possible commission, of an offence by the person—

- (a) when the offence was committed, is alleged to have been committed or may possibly have been committed;
- (b) the nature of the offence and its relevance to the person's proposed duties or duties as a staff member;
- (c) anything else the commissioner considers relevant to the assessment of the person.

Person to be advised of information obtained

139.(1) This section applies to information obtained by the commissioner about a person, under this part, from the police commissioner.

(2) Before using the information to assess the person's suitability to be, or continue to be, a staff member, the commissioner must—

- (a) disclose the information to the person; and
- (b) allow the person a reasonable opportunity to make representations to the commissioner about the information.

Guidelines for dealing with information

140.(1) The commissioner must make guidelines, consistent with this Act, for dealing with information obtained by the commissioner under this part.

(2) The purpose of the guidelines is to ensure—

- (a) natural justice is afforded to the persons about whom the information is obtained; and
- (b) only relevant information is used in assessing the persons' suitability to be, or continue to be, staff members; and
- (c) decisions about the suitability of persons, based on the information, are made consistently.

(3) The commissioner must give a copy of the guidelines, on request, to a person seeking to be engaged, or engaged, as a staff member.

PART 8—GENERAL*Division 1—When commissioner may give notice other than in writing***Application of div 1**

141. This division applies if, under this Act, the commissioner is required to give written notice to a person about a decision made or action taken by the commissioner.

Person asks for notice other than in writing

142.(1) This section applies if the person asks the commissioner not to notify the person by written notice but to use another way of communication.

(2) The commissioner must communicate with the person in the requested way, to the extent it is reasonable for the commissioner to do so, instead of giving the written notice.

Written notice inappropriate

143.(1) This section applies if the commissioner considers—

- (a) if the written notice is given—
 - (i) the rights, interests or wellbeing of a child may be adversely affected; or
 - (ii) the health or safety of the person, or of someone else, may be put at risk; or
 - (iii) an investigation by the commissioner will be prejudiced; or
- (b) for another reason, it would not be appropriate to give the written notice in the circumstances.

(2) The commissioner may communicate with the person in a way the commissioner considers appropriate instead of giving the written notice.

(3) If the person asks the commissioner to give the written notice to the person's lawyer or other nominated representative, the commissioner must do so.

Commissioner must keep record

144. If, under this division, the commissioner does not give the written notice, the commissioner must keep a written record of—

- (a) the reasons for not giving the written notice; and
- (b) the way the commissioner told the person about the decision or action; and
- (c) when the commissioner told the person about the decision or action; and
- (d) the substance of the communication.

*Division 2—Evidence and legal proceedings***Evidentiary provisions**

145.(1) This section applies to a proceeding under or in relation to this Act.

(2) Unless a party, by reasonable notice, requires proof of—

- (a) the appointment of a community visitor under this Act; or
- (b) the authority of a community visitor to do something under this Act;

the appointment or authority must be presumed.

(3) A signature purporting to be the signature of the commissioner or a community visitor is evidence of the signature it purports to be.

(4) A certificate purporting to be signed by the commissioner stating any of the following matters is evidence of the matter—

- (a) a stated document is a copy of a notice given or issued under this Act;
- (b) on a stated day, a stated person was given a stated notice under this Act.

Indictable and summary offences

146.(1) An offence against section 108, 109 or 111¹⁰ is an indictable offence if the person charged with the offence has a conviction for a serious offence involving a child.

(2) An offence against section 156¹¹ is an indictable offence.

(3) Otherwise, an offence against this Act is a summary offence.

Proceedings for indictable offences

147.(1) A proceeding for an indictable offence against this Act may be taken, at the election of the prosecution—

- (a) by way of summary proceedings under the *Justices Act 1886*; or
- (b) on indictment.

¹⁰ Section 108 (Unsuitable person not to apply for, or start or continue in, child-related employment), 109 (Carrying on regulated business) or 111 (Effect of conviction for serious offence)

¹¹ Section 156 (Offence of taking a reprisal)

- (2) A magistrate must not hear an indictable offence summarily if—
- (a) the defendant asks at the start of the hearing that the charge be prosecuted on indictment; or
 - (b) the magistrate considers the charge should be prosecuted on indictment.
- (3) If subsection (2) applies—
- (a) the magistrate must proceed by way of an examination of witnesses for an indictable offence; and
 - (b) a plea of the person charged at the start of the proceeding must be disregarded; and
 - (c) evidence brought in the proceeding before the magistrate decided to act under subsection (2) is taken to be evidence in the proceeding for the committal of the person for trial or sentence; and
 - (d) before committing the person for trial or sentence, the magistrate must make a statement to the person as required by the *Justices Act 1886*, section 104(2)(b).¹²
- (4) The maximum penalty that may be summarily imposed for an indictable offence is 150 penalty units or 2 years imprisonment.

Limitation on who may summarily hear indictable offence proceedings

- 148.(1)** A proceeding must be before a magistrate if it is a proceeding—
- (a) for the summary conviction of a person on a charge for an indictable offence; or
 - (b) for an examination of witnesses for a charge for an indictable offence.

(2) However, if a proceeding for an indictable offence is brought before a justice who is not a magistrate, jurisdiction is limited to taking or making a procedural action or order within the meaning of the *Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations Act 1991*.

¹² *Justices Act 1886*, section 104 (Proceedings upon an examination of witnesses in relation to an indictable offence)

Proceeding for offences

149. A proceeding for an offence against this Act, other than an indictable offence, must be taken in a summary way under the *Justices Act 1886*.

When proceeding may start

150. A proceeding for an offence against this Act may be started within—

- (a) 1 year after the offence is committed; or
- (b) 1 year after the offence comes to the complainant's knowledge, but within 2 years after the offence is committed.

Allegations of false or misleading information or statements

151. In a proceeding for an offence against this Act defined as involving false or misleading information, or a false or misleading statement, it is enough for a charge to state that the information or statement was, without specifying which, 'false or misleading'.

Division 3—Confidentiality

Confidentiality of information about criminal history

152.(1) This section applies to a person who—

- (a) is, or has been, the commissioner or a staff member; and
- (b) in that capacity acquired information, or gained access to a document, under part 6¹³ about someone else's criminal history.

(2) This section also applies to a person who—

- (a) is, or has been, the commissioner, a staff member or a selection panel member; and
- (b) in that capacity acquired information, or gained access to a

¹³ Part 6 (Employment screening for child-related employment)

document, under part 7¹⁴ about someone else's criminal history or about an investigation relating to the possible commission of a serious offence by someone else.

(3) The person must not disclose the information, or give access to the document, to anyone else.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units or 2 years imprisonment.

(4) Subsection (3) does not apply to the disclosure of information, or giving of access to a document, about a person—

- (a) if subsection (1) applies—to the commissioner or a staff member for the purpose of an employment-screening decision; or
- (b) if subsection (2) applies—to the commissioner, a staff member or selection panel member for the purpose of assessing the person's suitability to be, or continue to be, a staff member; or
- (c) if the person is an adult—with the person's consent; or
- (d) if the disclosure or giving of access is otherwise required under an Act.

(5) In this section—

“selection panel member” means a member of a panel formed to make a recommendation to the commissioner about a person's engagement as a staff member.

“staff member” means a member of the commission's staff.

Confidentiality of other information

153.(1) This section applies to confidential information other than information mentioned in section 152(1)(b) or (2)(b).

(2) If a person gains confidential information through involvement in this Act's administration, the person must not—

- (a) make a record of the information or intentionally disclose the information to anyone, other than under subsection (4); or
- (b) recklessly disclose the information to anyone.

¹⁴ Part 7 (Criminal history checks of commission's staff)

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.

(3) A person gains information through involvement in this Act's administration if the person gains the information because of being, or an opportunity given by being—

- (a) the commissioner; or
- (b) a member of the commission's staff; or
- (c) a person consulted or employed by the commissioner for an investigation of a complaint; or
- (d) a member of an advisory committee.

(4) A person may make a record of confidential information or disclose it to someone else—

- (a) for this Act; or
- (b) to discharge a function under another law; or
- (c) for a proceeding in a court or tribunal; or
- (d) if authorised under a regulation or another law; or
- (e) if—
 - (i) the person is authorised in writing by the person to whom the information relates; and
 - (ii) the person to whom the information relates is an adult when the authorisation is given; and
 - (iii) the information does not identify, and is unlikely to lead to the identification of, a person as a child who is, or has been, the subject of a complaint under this Act.

Disclosure of information about investigations

154.(1) Section 153 does not prevent the commissioner from disclosing information to a person or to members of the public, about an issue the subject of an investigation by the commissioner, if the commissioner is satisfied the disclosure—

- (a) is necessary and reasonable in the public interest; and
- (b) is unlikely to prejudice the investigation.

(2) In a disclosure under subsection (1), the commissioner may express an opinion expressly or impliedly critical of an entity only if the commissioner has given the entity an opportunity to answer the criticism.

Division 4—Reprisals

Meaning of “taking a reprisal”

155.(1) A person “takes a reprisal” if—

- (a) the person causes, or attempts or conspires to cause, detriment to another person; and
- (b) a substantial reason for the person doing the thing mentioned in paragraph (a) is the belief that the other person or someone else—
 - (i) has made, or may make, a complaint to the commissioner; or
 - (ii) has helped, or may help, the commissioner.

(2) A reference in subsection (1) to causing detriment includes inducing a person to cause detriment.

Offence of taking a reprisal

156. A person must not take a reprisal.

Maximum penalty—150 penalty units or 2 years imprisonment.

Damages entitlement for reprisal

157.(1) A reprisal is a tort and a person who takes a reprisal is liable in damages to anyone who suffers detriment as a result.

(2) Any appropriate remedy that may be granted by a court for a tort may be granted by a court for the taking of a reprisal.

(3) If the claim for the damages goes to trial in the Supreme Court or the District Court, it must be decided by a judge sitting without a jury.

Division 5—Miscellaneous

Meaning of “parent”

158.(1) A “parent” of a child is the child’s mother, father or someone else, other than the chief executive (families), having or exercising parental responsibility for the child.

(2) However, a person standing in the place of a parent of a child on a temporary basis is not a parent of the child.

(3) A parent of an Aboriginal child includes a person who, under Aboriginal tradition, is regarded as a parent of the child.

(4) A parent of a Torres Strait Islander child includes a person who, under Island custom, is regarded as a parent of the child.

Relationship with complaints agencies

159.(1) This Act does not prevent a complaints agency performing its principal function under the Act under which the complaints agency is established.

(2) The commissioner must liaise with each complaints agency about the exercise by the commissioner and the complaints agency of their respective functions relating to complaints about services provided to children.

Complaints agency or other government service provider to inform commissioner about actions taken for complaint

160.(1) This section applies if—

- (a) the commissioner refers a complaint, about services provided by a service provider to a child, to a complaints agency or other government service provider; and
- (b) the commissioner, by written notice to the agency or service provider, asks for information about the way in which the agency or service provider is dealing or has dealt with the complaint.

(2) The agency or service provider must inform the commissioner about any action taken for dealing with the complaint or, if it is resolved, the

resolution of the complaint.

(3) Subsection (2) applies despite any express provision in an Act establishing a complaints agency that makes it an offence for anyone involved with administration of the Act to disclose the information.

Protection from liability

161.(1) An official does not incur civil liability for an act done, or omission made, honestly and without negligence under this Act.

(2) If subsection (1) prevents a civil liability attaching to an official, the liability attaches instead to the State.

(3) In this section—

“**official**” means—

- (a) the commissioner; or
- (b) a member of the commission’s staff; or
- (c) a person acting under the direction of a person mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b).

Whistleblowers’ protection

162.(1) A person is not liable, civilly, criminally or under an administrative process, for disclosing to the commissioner information that would help the commissioner in assessing or investigating a complaint.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1)—

- (a) in a proceeding for defamation the discloser has a defence of absolute privilege for publishing the disclosed information; and
- (b) if the discloser would otherwise be required to maintain confidentiality about the disclosed information under an Act, oath, rule of law or practice, the discloser—
 - (i) does not contravene the Act, oath, rule of law or practice by disclosing the information; and
 - (ii) is not liable to disciplinary action for disclosing the information.

(3) A person's liability for the person's own conduct is not affected only because the person discloses it to the commissioner.

Other reports relating to commissioner's functions

163. The commissioner may provide the Minister with a report on any issue relating to the exercise of the commissioner's functions under this Act.

Review of pt 6

164.(1) The Minister must ensure the operation of part 6¹⁵ is reviewed.

(2) The review must start within 2 years of the commencement of the part.

(3) Within 3 years of the commencement of the part, the Minister must prepare a report on the outcome of the review and table the report in the Legislative Assembly.

Delegation by commissioner

165.(1) The commissioner may delegate the commissioner's powers under this Act to—

- (a) an appropriately qualified member of the commission's staff; or
- (b) another individual whom the commissioner considers is an appropriately qualified person to exercise the powers delegated to the person.

(2) In this section—

“appropriately qualified” includes having qualifications, experience or standing appropriate to exercise the power.

Example of 'standing'—

A staff member's classification level in the public service.

¹⁵ Part 6 (Employment screening for child-related employment)

Approved forms

166. The commissioner may approve forms for use under this Act.

Regulation-making power

167. The Governor in Council may make regulations under this Act.

PART 9—REPEAL AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS*Division 1—Repeal***Repeal of Children’s Commissioner and Children’s Services Appeals Tribunals Act 1996**

168. The *Children’s Commissioner and Children’s Services Appeals Tribunals Act 1996* is repealed.

*Division 2—Transitional provisions on repeal of Children’s Commissioner and Children’s Services Appeals Tribunals Act 1996***Meaning of “commencing day”**

169. In this division—

“**commencing day**” means the day section 168 commences.

Commissioner

170.(1) This section applies to the person who, immediately before the commencing day, was the Children’s Commissioner under the repealed Act.

(2) Subject to sections 26 and 27,¹⁶ the person continues in office as the commissioner under this Act until the end of the term stated in the person's appointment under the repealed Act.

(3) The remuneration, allowances and terms of appointment decided for the person under section 12 of the repealed Act¹⁷ are taken to have been decided under section 23.¹⁸

Continuation of commission and staff

171.(1) The Children's Commission established under the repealed Act is continued in existence as the commission under this Act.

(2) The staff of the Children's Commission established under the repealed Act continue as the staff of the commission under this Act.

Continuation of certain complaints

172.(1) This section applies to a complaint made under part 3 of the repealed Act that—

- (a) immediately before the commencing day, had not been finally dealt with under the repealed Act; and
- (b) if this Act had commenced at the relevant time, could have been made under this Act.

(2) The commissioner must continue to deal with the complaint as if it had been made under this Act.

Official visitors

173.(1) A person who, immediately before the commencing day, held office as an official visitor under the repealed Act continues to hold office as a community visitor, on the conditions applying to the person immediately before the commencing day, until the end of the term stated in the person's

¹⁶ Sections 26 (Resignation) and 27 (Termination of appointment)

¹⁷ *Children's Commissioner and Children's Services Appeals Tribunals Act 1996*, section 12 (Terms of appointment)

¹⁸ Section 23 (Terms and conditions of appointment)

appointment.

(2) Subsection (1) applies subject to section 82(2) and (3).¹⁹

Division 3—Transitional provisions for amendment of Juvenile Justice Act 1992

Official visitors

174.(1) A person who, immediately before the commencement, held office as an official visitor under the *Juvenile Justice Act 1992*—

- (a) continues to hold office as a community visitor until the end of the term stated in the person’s appointment; and
- (b) while the person continues to hold office under paragraph (a), continues to be entitled to the remuneration and allowances to which the person was entitled immediately before the commencement.

(2) Subsection (1) applies subject to section 82(2) and (3).

(3) In this section—

“**commencement**” means the commencement of schedule 3, amendments of the *Juvenile Justice Act 1992*.

PART 10—CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

Consequential amendments

175. Schedule 3 amends the Acts mentioned in it.

¹⁹ Section 82 (Duration of appointment)

SCHEDULE 1

REGULATED EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESSES FOR EMPLOYMENT SCREENING

section 97

PART 1—REGULATED EMPLOYMENT

Residential facilities

1. Employment is regulated employment if—
 - (a) any of the usual functions of the employment is carried out, or is likely to be carried out, inside a residential facility; and
 - (b) the employer is not a government service provider.

Schools—boarding facilities

2. Employment is regulated employment if—
 - (a) any of the usual functions of the employment is carried out, or is likely to be carried out, inside a boarding facility at a school; and
 - (b) the employee is not a registered teacher.

Schools—employees other than teachers and parents

3. Employment is regulated employment if—
 - (a) the usual functions of the employment include, or are likely to include—
 - (i) providing services at a school that are directed mainly towards children; or
 - (ii) conducting activities at a school that mainly involve children; and

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

- (b) the employee is neither a registered teacher nor a volunteer who is a parent of a child enrolled at the school.

Churches, clubs and associations involving children

4.(1) Employment is regulated employment if—

- (a) the usual functions of the employment include, or are likely to include—
 - (i) providing services directed mainly towards children; or
 - (ii) conducting activities mainly involving children; and
- (b) the services are provided, or the activities are conducted, by or within a church, club, association or similar entity; and
- (c) the employer is a not a government entity.

(2) However, employment mentioned in subsection (1) is not regulated employment if—

- (a) the employment is unpaid; and
- (b) the employee is a parent of a child who—
 - (i) if subsection (1)(a)(i) applies—receives the services to which the employment relates or similar services provided by someone else within the church, club, association or other entity; or
 - (ii) if subsection (1)(a)(ii) applies—participates in the activities to which the employment relates or similar activities conducted by someone else within the church, club, association or other entity.

Examples—

1. A sporting club has teams for adults and children of various ages. A person is employed by the club, as a volunteer, to coach one of the children's teams. The person does not have any children. Under subsection (1), the coaching is regulated employment.
2. Same facts as in example 1, except that the person has a child on the team that the person is coaching. Under subsection (2), the coaching is not

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

regulated employment because the child is participating in the sporting activities conducted at the club to which the coaching relates.

3. Same facts as in example 1, except that the person has a child on another of the club's teams, which is coached by another employee of the club. Under subsection (2), the person's coaching is not regulated employment because the child is participating in sporting activities, conducted by someone else at the club, that are similar to the activities to which the person's coaching relates.
4. Same facts as in example 1, except that the person has a child who receives child-minding services provided by another employee of the club. In this case, the coaching is regulated employment. Subsection (2) does not apply because the services the child is receiving (child care) are not similar to the activities to which the coaching relates.

Counselling and support services**5. Employment is regulated employment if—**

- (a) the usual functions of the employment include, or are likely to include, providing counselling or a similar support service to a child in a situation where—
 - (i) the employee is physically present with the child while no-one else is present; or
 - (ii) the employee is not physically present with the child; and
- (b) the employee is not a registered health practitioner; and
- (c) the employer—
 - (i) is not a government service provider; and
 - (ii) carries on a business that includes providing counselling or a similar support service.

Example for paragraph (a)(ii)—

Employment that includes providing counselling to children over the telephone or via the internet.

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

Private teaching, coaching or tutoring

6.(1) Employment is regulated employment if—

- (a) the usual functions of the employment include or are likely to include prescribed teaching; and
- (b) the employee is not a registered teacher; and
- (c) the employer—
 - (i) is not a government service provider; and
 - (ii) carries on a business that includes providing prescribed teaching.

(2) In this section—

“prescribed teaching” means teaching, coaching or tutoring a child, individually, on a commercial basis.

Regulation about usual functions of employment

7.(1) For this part, a regulation may make provision about whether a function of employment is a usual function.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), a regulation may—

- (a) state the employment, or type of employment, to which the regulation applies; and
- (b) declare that a stated function of the employment is, or is not, a usual function of the employment.

(3) A regulation under this section may describe a function of employment by reference to the frequency with which it is carried out, or in another way.

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

PART 2—REGULATED BUSINESSES**Counselling and support services**

8. A business is a regulated business if the usual activities of the business include, or are likely to include, a person, other than a registered health practitioner, providing counselling or a similar support service to a child in a situation where—

- (a) the person is physically present with the child while no-one else is present; or
- (b) the person is not physically present with the child.

Private teaching, coaching or tutoring

9. A business is a regulated business if the usual activities of the business include, or are likely to include, teaching, coaching or tutoring a child, individually, on a commercial basis.

SCHEDULE 2**OTHER SERIOUS OFFENCE PROVISIONS OF THE
CRIMINAL CODE**

schedule 4, definition “serious offence”, paragraph (b)

1. Section 211 (Bestiality)
2. Section 219 (Taking child for immoral purposes)
3. Section 221 (Conspiracy to defile)
4. Section 228 (Obscene publications and exhibitions)
5. Section 238 (Contamination of goods)
6. Section 239 (Hoax contamination of goods)
7. Section 240 (Dealing in contaminated goods)
8. Section 300 (Unlawful homicide)
9. Section 307 (Accessory after the fact to murder)
10. Section 308 (Threats to murder in document)
11. Section 309 (Conspiring to murder)
12. Section 311 (Aiding suicide)
13. Section 314 (Concealing the birth of children)
14. Section 324 (Failure to supply necessities)
15. Section 327 (Setting mantraps)
16. Section 355 (Deprivation of liberty)
17. Section 359 (Threats)
18. Section 359E (Punishment of unlawful stalking)
19. Section 363 (Child-stealing)
20. Section 363A (Abduction of child under 16)
21. Section 364 (Cruelty to children under 16)

SCHEDULE 2 (continued)

- 22.** Section 415 (Demanding property, benefit or performance of services with threats)
- 23.** Section 416 (Attempts at extortion by threats)
- 24.** Section 417 (Procuring execution of deeds etc. by threats)
- 25.** Section 417A (Taking control of aircraft).

SCHEDULE 3**CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS**

section 175

CHILD PROTECTION ACT 1999**1. Section 186(2)(c)—***omit, insert—*

- ‘(c) to the commissioner under the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 2000*, in compliance with a notice given by the commissioner under that Act requiring the disclosure; or
- (d) by way of evidence given in a legal proceeding under subsections (3) and (4).’.

CRIME COMMISSION ACT 1997**1. Section 39(1)(g)—***omit, insert—*

- ‘(g) the Commissioner for Children and Young People;’.

2. Section 69(5)(a)—*omit, insert—*

- ‘(a) the Commissioner for Children and Young People;’.

SCHEDULE 3 (continued)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT 1989**1. Section 84A(5)(a)—***omit, insert—*

‘(a) the Commissioner for Children and Young People;’.

EDUCATION (GENERAL PROVISIONS) ACT 1989**1. Section 25(2)—***insert—*

‘(d) in compliance with a requirement under an Act;’.

JUVENILE JUSTICE ACT 1992**1. Section 5—***insert—*‘**“community visitor”** means a community visitor under the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 2000*.’.**2. Sections 204 to 206—***omit.*

SCHEDULE 3 (continued)

3. Section 213(1), ‘an official’—*omit, insert—*

‘a community’.

4. Section 215(2) and (6), ‘an official’—*omit, insert—*

‘a community’.

5. Section 215(3)—*omit, insert—*

‘(3) Despite subsection (2), a child is entitled to complain directly to a community visitor.’.

6. Section 216 to 218—*omit.***7. Section 228(2), ‘an official’—***omit, insert—*

‘a community’.

8. Section 233(2), ‘schedule 1’—*omit, insert—*

‘the schedule’.

9. Schedule 1, heading, ‘1’—*omit.*

SCHEDULE 3 (continued)

10. Schedule, item 11—*omit.***PUBLIC SERVICE ACT 1996****1. Schedule 1, item 3—***omit, insert—*

- ‘3 Commission for Children and Young People Commissioner for Children and Young People’.

SCHEDULE 4**DICTIONARY**

section 3

“advisory committee” means a committee established under part 5.

“advocacy entity” means an entity that provides advocacy services for, or otherwise represents—

- (a) particular children; or
- (b) the interests of children generally.

“approved form” means a form approved under section 166.

“charge”, of an offence, means a charge in any form, including, for example, the following—

- (a) a charge on an arrest;
- (b) a notice to appear served under the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*, section 177;²⁰
- (c) a complaint under the *Justices Act 1886*;
- (d) a charge by a court under the *Justices Act 1886*, section 42(1A),²¹ or another provision of an Act;
- (e) an indictment.

“chief executive (families)” means the chief executive of the department in which the *Child Protection Act 1999* is administered.

“child accommodation service” means a service for which the main purpose is to provide accommodation for children but does not include—

²⁰ *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*, section 177 (Notice to appear may be issued for offence)

²¹ *Justices Act 1886*, section 42 (Commencement of proceedings)

SCHEDULE 4 (continued)

- (a) the care of children by an approved foster carer under the *Child Protection Act 1999* acting in that capacity; or
- (b) the provision of accommodation to children under residential tenancy agreements under the *Residential Tenancies Act 1994*.

“Children Services Tribunal” means the Children Services Tribunal established under the *Children Services Tribunal Act 2000*.

“commission” means the Commission for Children and Young People.

“commissioner” means the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

“community visitor” means a person appointed as a community visitor under this Act.

“complaints agency” means any of the following—

- (a) the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations under the *Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1974*;
- (b) the Criminal Justice Commission under the *Criminal Justice Act 1989*;
- (c) the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner under the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991*;
- (d) the Health Rights Commissioner under the *Health Rights Commission Act 1991*;
- (e) the Queensland Crime Commission under the *Crime Commission Act 1997*;
- (f) the adult guardian under the *Guardianship and Administration Act 2000*.

“confidential information” includes information about a person’s affairs but does not include—

- (a) information already publicly disclosed unless further disclosure of the information is prohibited by law; or
- (b) statistical or other information that could not reasonably be expected to result in the identification of the person to whom the

SCHEDULE 4 (continued)

information relates.

“conviction” means a finding of guilt by a court, or the acceptance of a plea of guilty by a court, whether or not a conviction is recorded.

“criminal history”, of a person, means—

- (a) every conviction of the person for an offence, in Queensland or elsewhere, and whether before or after the commencement of this Act; and
- (b) every charge made against the person for an offence, in Queensland or elsewhere, and whether before or after the commencement of this Act.

“current”, for a suitability notice, means current under section 104.

“detention centre” means a detention centre established under the *Juvenile Justice Act 1992*, section 201.

“employing”, for part 6, see section 99.

“employment-screening decision” means a decision whether a person is a suitable person for child-related employment.

“government entity” see the *Public Service Act 1996*, section 21.

“government service provider” see section 9.

“harm” has the meaning given in the *Child Protection Act 1999*, section 9.²²

“influence” includes attempt to influence.

²² The *Child Protection Act 1999*, section 9 states—

‘9.(1) “Harm”, to a child, is any detrimental effect of a significant nature on the child’s physical, psychological or emotional wellbeing.

(2) It is immaterial how the harm is caused.

(3) Harm can be caused by—

- (a) physical, psychological or emotional abuse or neglect; or
- (b) sexual abuse or exploitation.’.

SCHEDULE 4 (continued)

“negative notice” means a suitability notice declaring a person to be an unsuitable person for child-related employment.

“notice for information” see section 45(1).

“obstruct” includes hinder, resist and attempt to obstruct.

“parent” see section 158.

“police commissioner” means the commissioner of the police service.

“positive notice” means a suitability notice declaring a person to be a suitable person for child-related employment.

“prescribed department” means—

- (a) the department responsible for the care and protection of children;
or
- (b) the department responsible for disability services; or
- (c) the department responsible for mental health.

“private service provider” see section 10.

“registered health practitioner” means a person registered under any of the following Acts—

- *Chiropractors and Osteopaths Act 1979*
- *Dental Act 1971*
- *Dental Technicians and Dental Prosthetists Act 1991*
- *Medical Act 1939*
- *Occupational Therapists Act 1979*
- *Optometrists Act 1974*
- *Pharmacy Act 1976*
- *Physiotherapists Act 1964*
- *Podiatrists Act 1969*
- *Psychologists Act 1977*
- *Speech Pathologists Act 1979.*

SCHEDULE 4 (continued)

“registered teacher” means a person registered as a teacher under the *Education (Teacher Registration) Act 1988*.

“regulated business”, for part 6, see section 97.

“regulated employment”, for part 6, see section 97.

“relevant provider”, for part 3, see section 39.

“repealed Act” means the *Children’s Commissioner and Children’s Services Appeals Tribunals Act 1996*.

“residential facility” means a place at which a child accommodation service is provided—

- (a) by a prescribed department; or
- (b) under funding provided by a prescribed department; or
- (c) under funding provided by the Commonwealth and administered by a prescribed department; or
- (d) under a licence under the *Child Protection Act 1999*; or
- (e) to children who are, under the *Child Protection Act 1999*, in the custody or guardianship of the chief executive of the department in which that Act is administered, if the place is prescribed under a regulation made for this paragraph.

“school” means a State school or a non-State school under the *Education (General Provisions) Act 1989*.

“serious offence” means—

- (a) an offence against a provision mentioned in the schedule to the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*;²³ or
- (b) an offence against a provision of the Criminal Code mentioned in schedule 2; or
- (c) an offence of counselling or procuring the commission of, or attempting or conspiring to commit, an offence mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b); or

²³ *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*, schedule (Serious violent offences)

SCHEDULE 4 (continued)

- (d) an offence against a law of another jurisdiction that substantially corresponds to an offence mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (c).

“serious offence involving a child” does not include a serious offence for which a child is the alleged offender.

“service provider” see section 8.

“staff member”—

- (a) for part 7—see section 129; or
- (b) of a visitable site, means—
- (i) a person in charge of the site;
 - (ii) another person who is concerned with, or takes part in, the management of the site;
 - (iii) another person who is a member of the staff at the site.

“suitability notice”, means a suitability notice issued under section 102.

“unit of public administration” see the *Criminal Justice Act 1989*, section 3A.

“visitable site” see section 64.

“work”, for part 6, includes the provision of a service, or the conduct of an activity, in the course of a religious vocation.