1. In 2013, the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry made 121 recommendations to transform the existing child protection system. The Queensland Government is implementing legislative amendments to respond to the Commission of Inquiry’s recommendations in three stages.
2. The Child Protection Reform Amendment Bill 2016 (CPRA Bill) and the Director of Child Protection Litigation Bill 2016 (DCPL Bill) constitute the second stage of legislative amendments as part of the child and family reform agenda.
3. The Bills implement 11 recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry and an additional recommendation of the Court Case Management Committee which was established under a recommendation of the Commission of Inquiry. The Bills also establish a new court work model for the Queensland child protection system.
4. The CPRA Bill makes specific amendments to the functions of the chief executive, Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS) to support the role of the new Office of the Child and Family Official Solicitor within DCCSDS. The CPRA Bill also makes amendments to improve the quality of evidence and information before the Childrens Court, the ability of the court to hear the voices of children and their families when making decisions, and avoid unnecessary delays in finalising proceedings.
5. The DCPL Bill establishes the Director of Child Protection Litigation, an independent statutory position that will report to the Attorney-General, to apply for child protection orders and conduct proceedings in the Childrens Court. Establishment of the Director will provide greater accountability and oversight for child protection order applications that are being proposed by DCCSDS by ensuring that applications filed in court are supported by quality evidence, promoting efficiency and evidence-based decision making to improve outcomes for children and families.
6. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Child Protection Reform Amendment Bill 2016 and the Director of Child Protection Litigation Bill 2016 into the Legislative Assembly.
7. *Attachments*
* [Child Protection Reform Amendment Bill 2016](Attachments/CPBill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes to Child Protection Reform Amendment Bill 2016](Attachments/CPExNotes.pdf)
* [Director of Child Protection Litigation Bill 2016](Attachments/DirBill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes to Director of Child Protection Litigation Bill 2016](Attachments/DirExNotes.pdf)