1. Queensland is more than halfway through the 10-year Supporting Families Changing Futures reform program (SFCF). As part of the SFCF reforms, the *Child Protection Act 1999* (CP Act) has been progressively amended (2014, 2016 and 2017) and comprehensively reviewed from 2015 to 2017.
2. There has been strong stakeholder support for further legislative reform, particularly for strengthening children’s voices.
3. Consistent with the results of consultation, the Child Protection Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 (the Bill) amends the CP Act to:
	* reinforce children’s rights in the legislative framework
	* strengthen children’s voices in child protection decisions that affect them, and
	* streamline, clarify and improve the regulation of care.
4. The Bill includes amendments to strengthen children’s rights and participation in the child protection system by:
	* expanding the rights in the Charter of Rights for a child in care
	* requiring ‘active efforts’ to apply the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle
	* implementing participation principles that require those who are involved in the administration of the CP Act to genuinely listen to and engage with children’s views
	* clarifying the department’s commitment to partnering with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, community representatives and organisations in policy and program development, service design and delivery as well as individual child protection case decision-making.
5. The Bill also streamlines, clarifies and improves the regulation of care framework by streamlining the assessment process for kinship carers seeking to care for additional children, establishing the legislative framework for a carers’ register, ensuring carers are provided with support and information, and clarifying certain aspects of the licensing framework. The Bill also makes minor and technical amendments to enhance operational efficiencies.
6. The Bill makes amendments to the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000* to:
	* modernise the category of regulated employment that deals with licensed care services
	* expand the definition of notifiable persons
	* enable Blue Card Services to access domestic violence information to inform blue card eligibility assessments
	* facilitate Queensland’s participation in the Working with Children Checks National Reference System.
7. The Bill also makes technical amendments to the *Adoption Act 2009* to resolve issues with a Commonwealth Government Instrument of Delegation.
8. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Child Protection Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 into the Legislative Assembly.
9. *Attachments:*
	* [Child Protection Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
	* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)
	* [Statement of Compatibility](Attachments/SoC.PDF)