- 9 AUG 2013

Mr David Anker
Stakeholder Relations
Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
GPO Box 5283
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Anker

Thank you for your email of 17 June 2013 providing the Queensland Government with the opportunity to make a submission in response to the first issues paper of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse about a national Working with Children Check (WWCC).

You may be aware that on 1 July 2013, the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry released its report — Taking Responsibility – A Roadmap for Queensland Child Protection. The report outlines 121 recommendations, which propose wide, sweeping reforms to Queensland’s child protection policies and processes, including the State’s existing WWCC, the blue card.

As you will appreciate, the Queensland Government will be comprehensively considering all recommendations. Therefore, at this point in time, Queensland can only provide in-principle support for a national WWCC, acknowledging that for this to be realised, there would need to be considerable in-depth work undertaken in consultation with jurisdictions to achieve agreed definitions of key concepts.

A national WWCC is an ambitious proposal and I commend the Royal Commission for considering tackling such a difficult assignment. I look forward to following the progress and being apprised of the outcomes of this issues paper and of this significant inquiry more broadly.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

CAMPBELL NEWMAN