

From: Nicola Doumany
Sent: Tuesday, 7 February 2017 11:54 AM
To: Michelle Miller
Subject: FW: Request for additional files for Audit

From: Max Wise [mailto:max.wise@qfcc.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 7 February 2017 11:40 AM
To: Nicola Doumany <Nicola.DOUMANY@bluecard.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Peter Cantwell <Peter.Cantwell@qfcc.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Request for additional files for Audit

Hi Nicola


As discussed last week, could you please add the following BCS files to our audit sample:

Sch 4/3/22

Many thanks
Max

Max Wise
Chief Operating Officer
Queensland **Family & Child** Commission

Level 22, 53 Albert Street, Brisbane Qld 4000
PO Box 15217, Brisbane City East Qld 4002

Ph: 07 3900 6005 Sch 4/3/3 Fax: 07 3900 6050
qfcc.qld.gov.au | talkingfamilies.qld.gov.au | oneplace.org.au |  [/talkingfamiliesqld](https://www.facebook.com/talkingfamiliesqld)



Talking Families research released

Find out what drives help-seeking, help-offering and help-accepting behaviours in relation to parenting in Queensland

Visit: www.qfcc.qld.gov.au/talking-families-research-report

I acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Custodians of this country throughout Australia, and their connection to land and community. I pay my respect to them and their cultures, and to Elders both past and present.

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Daniel Puselj

From: Nicola Doumany
Sent: Tuesday, 7 February 2017 1:26 PM
To: Max Wise
Cc: Peter Cantwell; Michelle Miller
Subject: RE: Request for additional files for Audit

Michelle is following up.
Nicola

Sent from my Windows Phone

From: Max Wise
Sent: 7/02/2017 11:40 AM
To: [Nicola Doumany](#)
Cc: [Peter Cantwell](#)
Subject: Request for additional files for Audit

Hi Nicola


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Sch 4/3/22

Many thanks
Max

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Daniel Puselj

From: Michelle Miller
Sent: Wednesday, 8 February 2017 7:40 AM
To: Nicola Doumany
Subject: Re: Request for additional files for Audit

Nicola

A quick update- All files, except the Sch 4/3/22 which is currently being retrieved from our offsite storage provider, have been provided to Emma an officer assisting with QFCCs audit. The Sch 4/3/22 will be provided as soon as it's returned.

Regards

Michelle

Sent from my iPhone

On 7 Feb 2017, at 1:25 pm, Nicola Doumany <Nicola.DOUMANY@bluecard.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Michelle is following up.
Nicola

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From: [Max Wise](#)
Sent: 7/02/2017 11:40 AM
To: [Nicola Doumany](#)
Cc: [Peter Cantwell](#)
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- Sch 4/3/22
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Chief Operating Officer
Queensland Family & Child Commission

Level 22, 53 Albert Street, Brisbane Qld 4000
PO Box 15217, Brisbane City East Qld 4002

Ph: 07 3900 6005 Sch 4/3/3 **Fax:** 07 3900 6050
qfcc.qld.gov.au | talkingfamilies.qld.gov.au | oneplace.org.au | <image001.jpg> talkingfamiliesqld

<image002.jpg>

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Daniel Puselj

From: Michelle Miller
Sent: Wednesday, 23 May 2018 2:02 PM
To: Nicola Doumany
Subject: JAG-Requested_Dot_Points_
Attachments: JAG-Requested_Dot_Points_ Sch 4/3/3/22

REQUESTED DOT POINTS

ISSUE:

Sch 4/3/22

The following is confidential information under the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000* (the Act) and is provided to the Minister under section 395 of the Act. The Minister is prohibited from releasing confidential information unless specific criteria are met (see sections 384 and 385 of the Act).

BACKGROUND

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Sch 4/3/22

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Briefing Officer
Telephone

Approved Jennifer Lang
Date / /

Page 1 of 1

Michelle Miller

From: Michelle Miller
Sent: Wednesday, 23 May 2018 5:27 PM
To: Nicola Doumany
Subject: JAG-Requested_Dot_Points_
Attachments: JAG-Requested_Dot_Points_ Sch 4/3/22 .docx

Some amendments have been made to the earlier version.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL BRIEF FOR NOTING

Date: 23 May 2018
To: Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Leader of the House
From: David Mackie, Director-General, Department of Justice and Attorney-General
Subject: Sch 4/3/22
Requested by: Attorney-General's office

RECOMMENDATION/S

That you **note** the following information relating to

Sch 4/3/22

Sch 4/3/22

BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The following is confidential information under the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000* (the Act) and is provided to the Minister under section 395 of the Act. The Minister is prohibited from releasing confidential information unless specific criteria are met (see sections 384 and 385 of the Act).

Sch 4/3/22

Sch 4/3/22

ISSUES

11. The central focus of the assessment for a blue card is the protection of children and ensuring that any risks identified by an applicant's past behaviour has now been mitigated. It does not assess a person's suitability for a particular job, such as a foster carer. This is the job of the employing agency which looks at a number of things to assess suitability including referee checks, employment history and in the case of foster carers domestic violence, child protection and traffic histories.
12. The blue card check assesses:
- national charge or conviction (including spent convictions and pending and non-conviction charges) for an offence (even if no conviction was recorded);
 - child protection prohibition orders (whether a person is a respondent or subject to an application);
 - disqualification orders (for example, a court may make an order stating that a person who has been convicted of a serious offence involving a child may not hold a positive notice for a stated period);
 - if a person is subject to reporting obligations under the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004 or Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003;
 - disciplinary information held by certain professional organisations including teachers, child care licensees and foster carers; and
 - information that the Police Commissioner may provide in relation to police investigations into allegations of serious child-related sexual offences, even if no charges were laid.

13. In the blue card system, certain people are disqualified up front from applying for a blue card. A person convicted for a serious child-related sex or pornography offence or the murder of a child and sentenced to a term of imprisonment is banned for life from holding or applying for a blue card.
14. In some cases, the criminal history will not result in a blue card application being refused. For example, minor offences such as stealing, driving or property offences would not generally prevent a person from being issued with a blue card.
15. If a person is charged or convicted of a serious or concerning offence which raises concern about the person's background, such as sexual offending, or indecent behaviour, serious violent offending, domestic violence, drug-related offending, offences against children, Blue Card Services will ask the person to respond to the information before a decision about their eligibility to work with children is made.
16. In assessing whether a blue card applicant poses a risk of harm to children, the decision maker considers a range of factors such as the nature, circumstances, relevance to child-related employment and recency of the applicant's criminal history, any steps taken by them to address the triggers for their behaviour, and character references from others in the community.
17. A person whose blue card application is issued with a positive notice and blue card which they can use for a number of child-related environments. If a person's blue card application is refused, they are issued with a negative notice which prohibits them from providing regulated services.
18. Blue card checks are complemented by the ongoing monitoring of criminal histories of applicants and blue card holders so that action can be taken if there is a change in a person's criminal history. Any changes are immediately reviewed and appropriately actioned, including the suspension or cancelling of a blue card which prohibits the person from working with children, if there is a relevant change in a person's criminal history.
19. The blue card system cannot predict whether people will offend against children in the future. They do not guarantee that children will be safe from harm when interacting with people who hold blue card. It is part of a much broader framework for keeping children safe in the community. It complements the criminal justice system and other laws and strategies that work to protect children. These include laws for managing offenders who have committed child-related offences, as well as systems for child protection and the regulation of early childhood education and care. These measures are designed to support parents, carers and families – who have the primary responsibility for keeping children safe.

Work to strengthen the foster and blue card systems

20. Following the disappearance of Tiahleigh Palmer, the Premier and Minister for the Arts (the Premier) requested the Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) undertake a broad whole-of-government systems review of arrangements in place for responding to children missing from out of home care (OOHC). This also included a review of the information sharing arrangements between relevant agencies with a focus on risk assessments and decisions about safety of children in regulated home-based services.
21. On 20 February 2017 the State Government released the QFCC's *Recommendation 28 Supplementary Review: A report on information sharing to enhance the safety of children in regulated home-based services* (the Report) and indicated support for all 17 recommendations to improve legislation, policies and procedures for sharing information between agencies.

22. In addition to this work, QFCC have also undertaken reviews in relation to the blue card system and the foster care system and has made a number of recommendations to strengthen safeguards for children, including:

- refocusing the system on child-safe standards to manage risk;
- increasing the range of information considered as part of the check including expanding the range of offences that will result in the issue of an automatic negative notice; looking at opportunities for sharing international criminal history and to conduct New Zealand criminal history checks for applicants who disclose that they have worked or lived in New Zealand for six months or more;
- reforms to share information, including child protection histories and enabling Queensland Police to provide investigative information to Blue Card Services to assess risks of harm to children.

These recommendations will be implemented as part of a program of reforms to the system.

EMPLOYMENT IMPACT

23. Not applicable.

CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

24. Not applicable.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

25. Not applicable.

POTENTIAL MEDIA

26. DJAG's Media has received enquiries from Courier Mail and Sixty Minutes. For questions (Attachment A).

NOTED or APPROVED / NOT APPROVED		
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice		
Leader of the House		
Comments		
Yvette D'Ath MP Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Leader of the House	Chief of Staff	Policy Advisor
/ /	/ /	/ /

Daniel Puselj

From: Nicola Doumany
Sent: Wednesday, 23 May 2018 5:42 PM
To: Michelle Miller
Subject: JAG-Requested_Dot_Points_
Attachments: JAG-Requested_Dot_Points_ Sch 4/3/22

Thanks Michelle

I think this looks fine.

I have made some very minor changes.

Do these look okay?

If so, I will send through to DDG first thing tomorrow morning.

Nicola

Nicola Doumany
Executive Director
Community Justice Services
Department of Justice and Attorney-General
P (07) 3211 6800 Sch 4/3/3 E Nicola.Doumany@bluecard.qld.gov.au



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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL BRIEF FOR NOTING

Date: 23 May 2018
To: Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Leader of the House
From: David Mackie, Director-General, Department of Justice and Attorney-General
Subject: Sch 4/3/22
Requested by: Attorney-General's office

RECOMMENDATION/S

That you **note** the following information relating to
Sch 4/3/22

Sch 4/3/22

BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The following is confidential information under the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000* (the Act) and is provided to the Minister under section 395 of the Act. The Minister is prohibited from releasing confidential information unless specific criteria are met (see sections 384 and 385 of the Act).

Sch 4/3/22

Sch 4/3/22

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EMPLOYMENT IMPACT

23. Not applicable.

CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

24. Not applicable.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

25. Not applicable.

POTENTIAL MEDIA

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NOTED or APPROVED / NOT APPROVED		
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice		
Leader of the House		
Comments		
Yvette D'Ath MP Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Leader of the House / /	Chief of Staff / /	Policy Advisor / /

Daniel Puselj

From: Nicola Doumany
Sent: Thursday, 24 May 2018 8:40 AM
To: Justice Services Correspondence
Cc: Michelle Miller; Neil O'Connor; Fiona Fraser
Subject: AG Brief for Noting - Sch 4/3/22
Attachments: AG BFN JAG-Requested_Dot_Points_ Sch 4/3/22
Importance: High

Hello

Please see attached Brief for Noting providing information on the Blue Card process Sch 4/3/22 and the QFCC review of the blue card system in Queensland. This has been requested by the AG's office.

Could this please be given some urgent attention.

thanks

Nicola Doumany
Executive Director
Community Justice Services
Department of Justice and Attorney-General
P (07) 3211 6800 Sch 4/3/3 ✉ Nicola.Doumany@bluecard.qld.gov.au



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To: Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Leader of the House
From: David Mackie, Director-General, Department of Justice and Attorney-General
Subject: Sch 4/3/22
Requested by: Attorney-General's office

RECOMMENDATION/S

That you **note** the following information

Sch 4/3/22

Sch 4/3/22

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Sch 4/3/22

Sch 4/3/22

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- reforms to share information, including child protection histories and enabling Queensland Police to provide investigative information to Blue Card Services to assess risks of harm to children.

These recommendations will be implemented as part of a program of reforms to the system.

23. Importantly, while the QFCC review recommendations focus on strengthening the blue card system and making it more efficient, QFCC review found that "Queensland's blue card system has always been one of the strongest in Australia".

EMPLOYMENT IMPACT

24. Not applicable.

CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

25. Not applicable.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

26. Not applicable.

POTENTIAL MEDIA

27. DJAG's Media has received enquiries from Courier Mail and Sixty Minutes. For questions (Attachment A).

NOTED or APPROVED / NOT APPROVED
 Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
 Leader of the House
 Comments

Yvette D'Ath MP
 Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
 Leader of the House

Chief of Staff

Policy Advisor

/ /

/ /

/ /

From: Nicola Doumany
Sent: Thursday, 24 May 2018 9:39 AM
To: Justice Services Correspondence
Cc: Michelle Miller; Neil O'Connor; Fiona Fraser
Subject: RE: AG Brief for Noting - Sch 4/3/22
Attachments: AG BFN JAG-Requested_ Sch 4/3/22

Sorry Sonia

Michelle and I discussed last night and thought it best not to attach the email sent to us by corporate comms as the media team will have the most up to date information on requests and questions from the media and their maybe more that come through today. I have re-attached and taken out the reference to Attachment A.

Happy to discuss.

Nicola

From: Justice Services Correspondence [mailto:JusticeServices.Correspondence@justice.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Thursday, 24 May 2018 9:30 AM
To: Nicola Doumany <Nicola.DOUMANY@bluecard.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Michelle Miller <Michelle.Miller@bluecard.qld.gov.au>; Neil O'Connor <Neil.O'Connor@bluecard.qld.gov.au>; Fiona Fraser <Fiona.Fraser@bluecard.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: AG Brief for Noting - Sch 4/3/22

Hi all,

There wasn't an Attachment A – can someone please send it through?

Thanks

Kind regards,



Sonia Chiu
Acting Executive Support Officer
Office of the Deputy Director-General
Justice Services
Department of Justice and Attorney-General
P: 07 323 96614 (x96614) E: sonia.chiu@justice.qld.gov.au

From: Nicola Doumany [mailto:Nicola.DOUMANY@bluecard.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Thursday, 24 May 2018 8:40 AM
To: Justice Services Correspondence <JusticeServices.Correspondence@justice.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Michelle Miller <michelle.miller@bluecard.qld.gov.au>; neil.o'connor@bluecard.qld.gov.au; Fiona Fraser <fiona.fraser@bluecard.qld.gov.au>
Subject: AG Brief for Noting - Sch 4/3/22
Importance: High

Hello

Please see attached Brief for Noting providing information on the Blue Card proces: Sch 4/3/22 and the QFCC review of the blue card system in Queensland. This has been requested by the AG's office.

Could this please be given some urgent attention.

thanks

Nicola Doumany

Executive Director

Community Justice Services

Department of Justice and Attorney-General

P (07) 3211 6800

Sch 4/3/3

Nicola.Doumany@bluecard.qld.gov.au



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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL BRIEF FOR NOTING

Date: 23 May 2018
To: Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Leader of the House
From: David Mackie, Director-General, Department of Justice and Attorney-General
Subject: Sch 4/3/22
Requested by: Attorney-General's office

RECOMMENDATION/S

That you **note** the following information relating

Sch 4/3/22

Sch 4/3/22

BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The following is confidential information under the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000* (the Act) and is provided to the Minister under section 395 of the Act. The Minister is prohibited from releasing confidential information unless specific criteria are met (see sections 384 and 385 of the Act).

Sch 4/3/22

Sch 4/3/22

ISSUES

11. The central focus of the assessment for a blue card is the protection of children and ensuring that any risks identified by an applicant's past behaviour has now been mitigated. It does not assess a person's suitability for a particular job, such as a foster carer. This is the job of the employing agency which looks at a number of things to assess suitability including referee checks, employment history and in the case of foster carers domestic violence, child protection and traffic histories.
12. The blue card check assesses:
- national charge or conviction (including spent convictions and pending and non-conviction charges) for an offence (even if no conviction was recorded);
 - child protection prohibition orders (whether a person is a respondent or subject to an application);
 - disqualification orders (for example, a court may make an order stating that a person who has been convicted of a serious offence involving a child may not hold a positive notice for a stated period);
 - if a person is subject to reporting obligations under the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004 or Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003;
 - disciplinary information held by certain professional organisations including teachers, child care licensees and foster carers; and
 - information that the Police Commissioner may provide in relation to police investigations into allegations of serious child-related sexual offences, even if no charges were laid.

13. In the blue card system, certain people are disqualified up front from applying for a blue card. A person convicted for a serious child-related sex or pornography offence or the murder of a child and sentenced to a term of imprisonment is banned for life from holding or applying for a blue card.
14. In some cases, the criminal history will not result in a blue card application being refused. For example, minor offences such as stealing, driving or property offences would not generally prevent a person from being issued with a blue card.
15. If a person is charged or convicted of a serious or concerning offence which raises concern about the person's background, such as sexual offending, or indecent behaviour, serious violent offending, domestic violence, drug-related offending, offences against children, Blue Card Services will ask the person to respond to the information before a decision about their eligibility to work with children is made.
16. In assessing whether a blue card applicant poses a risk of harm to children, the decision maker considers a range of factors such as the nature, circumstances, relevance to child-related employment and recency of the applicant's criminal history, any steps taken by them to address the triggers for their behaviour, and character references from others in the community.
17. A person whose blue card application is issued with a positive notice and blue card which they can use for a number of child-related environments. If a person's blue card application is refused, they are issued with a negative notice which prohibits them from providing regulated services.
18. Blue card checks are complemented by the ongoing monitoring of criminal histories of applicants and blue card holders so that action can be taken if there is a change in a person's criminal history. Any changes are immediately reviewed and appropriately actioned, including the suspension or cancelling of a blue card which prohibits the person from working with children, if there is a relevant change in a person's criminal history.
19. The blue card system cannot predict whether people will offend against children in the future. They do not guarantee that children will be safe from harm when interacting with people who hold blue card. It is part of a much broader framework for keeping children safe in the community. It complements the criminal justice system and other laws and strategies that work to protect children. These include laws for managing offenders who have committed child-related offences, as well as systems for child protection and the regulation of early childhood education and care. These measures are designed to support parents, carers and families – who have the primary responsibility for keeping children safe.

Work to strengthen the foster and blue card systems

20. Following the disappearance of Tiahleigh Palmer, the Premier and Minister for the Arts (the Premier) requested the Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) undertake a broad whole-of-government systems review of arrangements in place for responding to children missing from out of home care (OOHC). This also included a review of the information sharing arrangements between relevant agencies with a focus on risk assessments and decisions about safety of children in regulated home-based services.
21. On 20 February 2017 the State Government released the QFCC's *Recommendation 28 Supplementary Review: A report on information sharing to enhance the safety of children in regulated home-based services* (the Report) and indicated support for all 17 recommendations to improve legislation, policies and procedures for sharing information between agencies.

22. In addition to this work, the QFCC have also undertaken reviews in relation to the blue card system and the foster care system and has made a number of recommendations to strengthen safeguards for children, including:

- refocusing the system on child-safe standards to manage risk;
- increasing the range of information considered as part of the check including expanding the range of offences that will result in the issue of an automatic negative notice; looking at opportunities for sharing international criminal history and to conduct New Zealand criminal history checks for applicants who disclose that they have worked or lived in New Zealand for six months or more;
- reforms to share information, including child protection histories and enabling Queensland Police to provide investigative information to Blue Card Services to assess risks of harm to children.

These recommendations will be implemented as part of a program of reforms to the system.

23. Importantly, while the QFCC review recommendations focus on strengthening the blue card system and making it more efficient, QFCC review found that "Queensland's blue card system has always been one of the strongest in Australia".

EMPLOYMENT IMPACT

24. Not applicable.

CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

25. Not applicable.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

26. Not applicable.

POTENTIAL MEDIA

27. DJAG's Media has received enquiries from Courier Mail and Sixty Minutes. For questions (Attachment A).

NOTED or APPROVED / NOT APPROVED		
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice		
Leader of the House		
Comments		
Yvette D'Ath MP	Chief of Staff	Policy Advisor
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice		
Leader of the House		
/ /	/ /	/ /

Daniel Puselj

From: Justice Services Correspondence
<JusticeServices.Correspondence@justice.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 24 May 2018 9:42 AM
To: Nicola Doumany
Cc: Michelle Miller; Neil O'Connor; Fiona Fraser
Subject: RE: AG Brief for Noting - Sch 4/3/22

Hi Nicola

All good
Thanks

Kind regards,



Sonia Chiu
Acting Executive Support Officer
Office of the Deputy Director-General
Justice Services
Department of Justice and Attorney-General
P: 07 323 96614 (x96614) E: sonia.chiu@justice.qld.gov.au

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Subject: RE: AG Brief for Noting Sch 4/3/22 Blue Card System

Sorry Sonia

Michelle and I discussed last night and thought it best not to attach the email sent to us by corporate comms as the media team will have the most up to date information on requests and questions from the media and their maybe more that come through today. I have re-attached and taken out the reference to Attachment A.

Happy to discuss.

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Subject: AG Brief for Noting Sch 4/3/22
Importance: High

Hello

Please see attached Brief for Noting providing information on the Blue Card process Sch 4/3/22 and the QFCC review of the blue card system in Queensland. This has been requested by the AG's office.

Could this please be given some urgent attention.

thanks

Nicola Doumany
Executive Director
Community Justice Services
Department of Justice and Attorney-General
P (07) 3211 6800 Sch 4/3/3 Nicola.Doumany@bluecard.qld.gov.au



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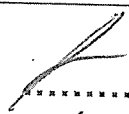
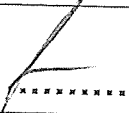



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URGENT

Attorney-General Correspondence Cover Sheet ESB Correspondence Completions Process

Edocs #	4366610 - BRF	Surname/Briefing Topic Sch 4/3/22 Blue Card Services
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PROOFED BY EXECUTIVE SERVICES AND DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE		
ESB: Print on letterhead and envelope	CL	24 MAY 2018
ESB: Track to ODG on eDOCS	CL	24 MAY 2018
APPROVED BY DIRECTOR-GENERAL		
 Director-General		
Date: 24 / 5 / 2018		
DLO: Track to OAG on eDOCS		24 / 5 / 18
DLO: Track on OAG spreadsheet		24 / 5 / 18
CLEARED AND SIGNED - OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL		
DLO: Update spreadsheet & track to ESB		7 / 6 / 18
ESB/DLO: Scan signed copy		- 8 JUN 2018
ESB/DLO: Post and finalise in eDOCS		- 8 JUN 2018

Division: JS

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL BRIEF FOR NOTING

URGENT

Date: 24 May 2018
To: Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Leader of the House
From: Blue Card Services
Through: Jennifer Lang, Deputy Director-General, Justice Services
Subject: Sch 4/3/22
Requested by: Attorney-General's office

RECOMMENDATION

That you **note** the following information relating to

Sch 4/3/22

Sch 4/3/22

BACKGROUND SUMMARY

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Sch 4/3/22

Sch 4/3/22

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15. If a person is charged or convicted of a serious or concerning offence which raises concern about the person's background, such as sexual offending, or indecent behaviour, serious violent offending, domestic violence, drug-related offending, offences against children, BCS will ask the person to respond to the information before a decision about their eligibility to work with children is made.
16. In assessing whether a blue card applicant poses a risk of harm to children, the decision maker considers a range of factors such as the nature, circumstances, relevance to child-related employment and recency of the applicant's criminal history, any steps taken by them to address the triggers for their behaviour, and character references from others in the community.
17. If a person's blue card application is issued with a positive notice and a blue card, this enables the person to use the card for a number of child-related environments. If a person's blue card application is refused, they are issued with a negative notice which prohibits them from providing regulated services.
18. Blue card checks are complemented by the ongoing monitoring of criminal histories of applicants and blue card holders so that action can be taken if there is a change in a person's criminal history. Any changes are immediately reviewed and appropriately actioned, including the suspension or cancelling of a blue card which prohibits the person from working with children, if there is a relevant change in a person's criminal history.
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Work to strengthen the foster and blue card systems

20. Following the disappearance of Ms Tiahleigh Palmer, the Honourable Anastacia MP, Premier and Minister for the Arts, requested the Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) to undertake a broad whole-of-Government systems review of arrangements in place for responding to children missing from out of home care (OOHC). This also included a review of the information sharing arrangements between relevant agencies with a focus on risk assessments and decisions about safety of children in regulated home-based services.
21. On 20 February 2017, the State Government released the QFCC's *Recommendation 28 Supplementary Review: A report on information sharing to enhance the safety of children in regulated home-based services* (the Report) and indicated support for all 17 recommendations to improve legislation, policies and procedures for sharing information between agencies.

22. In addition to this work, QFCC has also undertaken reviews in relation to the blue card system and the foster care system and has made a number of recommendations to strengthen safeguards for children, including:

- refocusing the system on child-safe standards to manage risk;
- increasing the range of information considered as part of the check including expanding the range of offences that will result in the issue of an automatic negative notice; looking at opportunities for sharing international criminal history and to conduct New Zealand criminal history checks for applicants who disclose that they have worked or lived in New Zealand for six months or more; and
- reforms to share information, including child protection histories and enabling QPS to provide investigative information to BCS to assess risks of harm to children.

23. These recommendations will be implemented as part of a program of reforms to the system.

24. Importantly, while the QFCC review recommendations focus on strengthening the blue card system and making it more efficient, QFCC review found that "Queensland's blue card system has always been one of the strongest in Australia".

EMPLOYMENT IMPACT

25. Not applicable.

CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

26. Not applicable.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

27. Not applicable.

POTENTIAL MEDIA

28. DJAG's Media has received enquiries from *The Courier-Mail* and *Sixty Minutes*.

NOTED or APPROVED / NOT APPROVED
 Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
 Leader of the House
 Comments

Yvette D'Ath
 Yvette D'Ath MP
 Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
 Leader of the House

6/6/18

JAH
 Chief of Staff

1, 6, 18

VA
 Policy Advisor

6/6/18

Contact Officer:	Name: Nicola Doumany Position: Executive Director, CJS Phone: 3211 6800 Date: 24/05/2018	Approved by:	Name: Jennifer Lang Position: Deputy Director-General Phone: 3239 6051 Date: / /
		Endorsed: David Mackie Director-General	<i>[Signature]</i> 24/5/18
<input type="checkbox"/> Election Commitment <input type="checkbox"/> CBRC / Cabinet related <input type="checkbox"/> ECM related			