

Possible changes to the Child Protection Act

Strengthening children and young people's voices

The law provides a framework for children and young people in care to have a say in decisions that affect them, but there is always room for improvement. We are looking at ways the law can better support children and young people in care to encourage their participation and value their contributions to decisions made about them.

Some options for changes to the legislation that may further empower children and young people in care and support their participation in decisions are set out below. We are keen to hear what you think about these possible changes. You can tell us your views through the Queensland Youth eHub or by sending us an email at CPALegislationreview@csyw.qld.gov.au.

Possible changes to the legislation

<p>Special participation rules</p> <p>The legislation has rules for how children and young people, parents, family members and carers participate in making decisions. These rules aim to ensure everyone has the opportunity to be involved.</p> <p>We are looking at whether the law should be changed to create special rules for how children and young people participate in decisions. Specific rules could be focussed on supporting you with separate rules for how other people participate.</p>	<p>How you can express your views</p> <p>The legislation says children and young people's views should be considered by people making decisions but there are no rules about how you can express your views.</p> <p>We are looking at whether the law should include information about how children and young people can express their views. This could include a rule that you must have an opportunity to tell the decision maker your views directly if you want to.</p>
<p>Giving you information</p> <p>The legislation has rules for how children and young people participate in making decisions including that your views should be considered.</p> <p>We are looking at whether the law should include a list of information you must be given. To meaningfully participate in decisions it is important you have enough information about your circumstances, what the possible decisions are and how you are able to participate.</p>	<p>How your views are recorded and used</p> <p>The legislation says children and young people's views should be considered by people making decisions but it doesn't provide advice on how their views should be considered.</p> <p>We are looking at whether the law should give people making decisions more guidance about how to use your views to make decisions. We are also looking at whether the law should include a rule that you must be told how your views will be recorded and how they will be used to make a decision.</p>
<p>Commenting on proposed decisions</p> <p>When a person making a decision has looked at all the relevant information they make a decision about what will happen.</p> <p>We are looking at whether the law should be changed to give you an opportunity to comment on proposed decisions. This would mean you would be told what decision is proposed and would have a chance to say what you think before it is finalised.</p>	<p>Giving you reasons for decisions</p> <p>When a final decision is made the people affected by the decision, including children and young people, are told what the outcome is.</p> <p>We are looking at whether the law should include a rule that in addition to being told what the decision is, you must also be told the reasons for why the decision was made.</p>