



Our reference: FSDSCS 01286-2025

Ms Fleur Kingham  
Chair  
Queensland Law Reform Commission  
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Office of the  
**Director-General**

Department of  
**Families, Seniors,  
Disability Services and  
Child Safety**

Dear Ms Kingham

Thank you for your letter dated 20 February 2025 regarding the release of the Queensland Law Reform Commission's (QLRC) consultation paper, *Equality and integrity: Reforming criminal defences in Queensland*.

The Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety supports the approach taken by the QLRC to review particular criminal defences, including the guiding principles of Justice, Fitness for Purpose, Clarity, Domestic and Family Violence, and Evidence-Informed. I acknowledge the impactful and important work of the review in removing unnecessary complexity and better providing for the use of self-defence in the context of domestic, family and sexual violence.

As one of the four government portfolios tasked with reducing victim of crime numbers in Queensland, the department values opportunities to ensure Queensland's justice system is responsive, trauma-informed, and aligned with community expectations.

The department also recognises that First Nations peoples and communities experience domestic and family violence at higher rates than non-Indigenous Australians and are overrepresented in the criminal justice system. I would like to specifically recognise that any changes to these particular defences may have a disproportionate impact on these communities, and that this should be considered at all times.

I note First Nations Elders were consulted and are supportive of this approach. The department is supportive of further engagement with First Nations peoples and communities, as well as other communities who may be disproportionately impacted by any changes. This includes people with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and people living in regional, rural and remote locations.

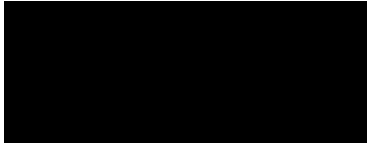
Given the relevance of this work to the department, we look forward to the review's findings and recommendations.

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If you require any further information or assistance in relation to this matter, please contact [REDACTED], Deputy Director-General, Strategy, Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety, on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Thank you for taking the time to raise these important issues.

Yours sincerely



**Belinda Drew**  
**Director-General**

**17 / 04 / 2025**