

14 January 2016

Your ref PD 6 of 2015

Our ref 337 - 40

The Honourable Justice David Thomas
President
QCAT
GPO Box 1639
Brisbane 4001

Dear President

QCAT Practice Direction No 6 of 2015 - Process for administrative reviews in child protection matters

The Society notes that QCAT Practice Direction No 6 of 2015 "Process for administrative reviews in protection matters"¹ came into effect on 24 November 2015.

The Queensland Law Society's Children's Law Committee is pleased with the introduction of this practice direction as it provides all parties guidance in navigating the process for administrative reviews in these matters. The Society is very supportive of the practice direction's philosophy and purpose "to set out how the tribunal includes children and young people in reviews of decisions made by the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services."

The Society is particularly encouraged by the Tribunal's focus on "the welfare, safety and best interests of children in review matters" and more specifically on Chapter 2A of the *Child Protection Act 1999*. The Committee also considers this practice direction to be a good step forward in facilitating and clarifying how certain applications are to be heard in child protection matters and commends the Tribunal for this initiative.

If you have any queries regarding the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact our Policy Solicitor, Ms Louise Pennisi, on (07) 3842 5979 or l.pennisi@qls.com.au.

Yours faithfully



Bill Potts
President

¹ http://www.qcat.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0011/448454/pd-2015-6.pdf