Mrs Giulia Jones MLA

Chair of the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

GPO Box 1020

CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Chair

I am writing to respond to comments made by the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety on DI2019-176 being the Working with Vulnerable People Background Checking (Fees) Determination 2019.

Fees for registration and renewal for employees seeking to obtain a Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) registration will increase in 2019-20. The increase in fees is larger than Consumer Price Index (CPI) in order to fully recover all the administrative costs associated with the processing and finalisation of a registration for application under the WWVP Scheme. The fee increase represents a 59 per cent increase.

On 1 July 2020, the WWVP registration period will be extended from three years to five years for all registrations. To avoid any disadvantage for registrations or renewals received between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020, there will be a grace period. Registrations will automatically be extended at the end of the three-year period by an additional two-years at no further cost to the applicant. The extension will be added at the end of the three-year statutory registration period.

While the fee has increased, the period that it covers has been extended from three years to five years. This represents a decrease in the annual cost of holding a WWVP registration from $28 per annum for three years registration to $27 per annum for five years registration.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, Dr Louise Bassett, Executive Branch Manager, Policy and Service Design, Community Services Directorate can be contacted by phone on (02) 6205 7743 or via email at Louise.Bassett@act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Chris Steel MLA

actchiefminister