1. The Family Responsibilities Commission (FRC) is a key mechanism supporting the Welfare Reform program operating in the communities of Aurukun, Coen, Hope Vale, Mossman Gorge and Doomadgee. Welfare Reform is designed to restore local authority and build stronger and more resilient communities.
2. The FRC operates by convening conferences in relation to community members brought to its attention through activation of a ‘trigger’ provided for under the *Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008* (the Act) to consider options for addressing the person’s circumstances, including referral to support services.
3. As part of the government’s response to the final report of the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland (the Taskforce), ‘*Not Now, Not Ever* – Putting an End to Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland’, the Bill adds a domestic violence ‘trigger’ to the Act.
4. The amendment will require a court to provide a notice to the FRC when a protection order is made against a person under the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act* *2012.* Receipt of such a notice will enable the FRC to request that the person subject to the order attend conferencing with the FRC.
5. The Bill also introduces a number of minor amendments aimed at increasing the efficiency and flexibility of the FRC. These include:
* clarifying the process for generating agency notices under the existing youth justice trigger
* expanding the scope for delegation of functions by the Family Responsibilities Commissioner to Local Commissioners
* broadening the eligibility criteria for appointment to the position of FRC Registrar
* removing redundant provisions from the Act.
1. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Family Responsibilities Commission Amendment Bill 2015 into the Legislative Assembly.
2. *Attachments*
* [Family Responsibilities Commission Amendment Bill 2015](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)