

HOW YOU WILL BE SUPPORTED TO HELP THE CHILD OR FAMILY MAKE DECISIONS

Child Safety, along with the child and family, will make arrangements so that you can assist them when a decision is being made.

You will also be given information you need about the decision-making process so that you can help the child and family when taking part.

“ As an independent person, you will help the child and family when taking part in making important decisions. ”

This artwork represents a child at the centre, surrounded by their family and community. The child and their family are helped through the decision-making process by an independent person, all working together towards safe and thriving children, families and communities.

By Gilimbaa artist Jenna Lee of the Larrakia People.

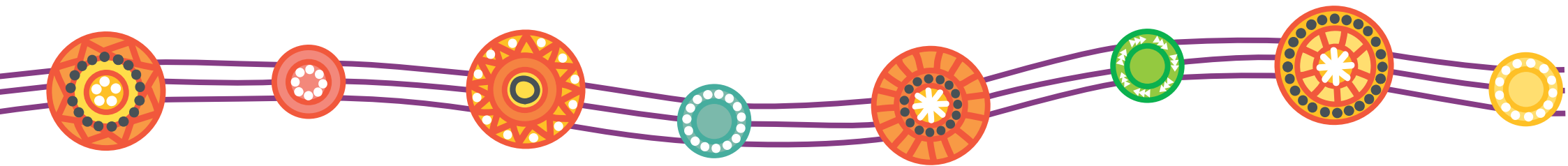
For more information about being a child or family's independent person:

www.cyjma.qld.gov.au/independentperson

INDEPENDENT PERSON

SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO HAVE THEIR SAY IN DECISIONS

“ This information is to help you decide whether you will say yes to being a child and family's independent person. ”



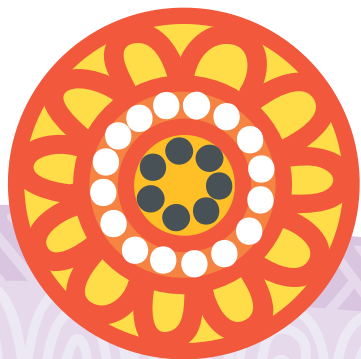
When Child Safety is working with an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander family to make an important decision about a child, the child and family have the right to have an 'independent person' to help them when taking part.



“ An independent person is someone who can help children and families take a more active part in making decisions with Child Safety. ”



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families know the strengths and challenges that exist in their own families and communities. As an independent person, you can help them have a stronger voice and feel supported so that they can have their say in decisions.



HOW YOU CAN HELP THE CHILD AND FAMILY'S VOICE BE HEARD

As an independent person, you will help the child and family when taking part in making important decisions. This could include decisions about worries for a child's safety, safety planning or case planning.

You can help the child and family to:

- feel stronger and supported to ensure everything that they wish to say is heard
- tell Child Safety about the child's family, culture, community and family support network
- explain any personal or cultural factors which are relevant during the decision-making process.

The child and family will choose whether they want you to be involved each time an important decision is being made.

Being an independent person means you will have access to confidential information about the child and family. You must respect the child and family's privacy and cannot share this information with others (there can be serious consequences if their privacy is not respected).

ARE YOU SOMEONE WHO CAN BE A CHILD OR FAMILY'S SUPPORT PERSON?

A child or a member of the child's family may ask you to be their independent person if you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person and you:

- represent the child's community or language group (as identified by the child or family); or
- are an important person in their life; and
- are able to speak about Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander culture in relation to their child or family.

Child Safety will respect the child or family's choice, unless there is a clear reason why you shouldn't be their independent person. They will consider information provided by the child and family, by you, and any information kept by Child Safety, if applicable.

You don't need a Blue Card to be an independent person.

