



Being an independent person

Help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families have their say in decisions

We will respect the choice made by the child or family unless there's a clear reason why you can't be their independent person.

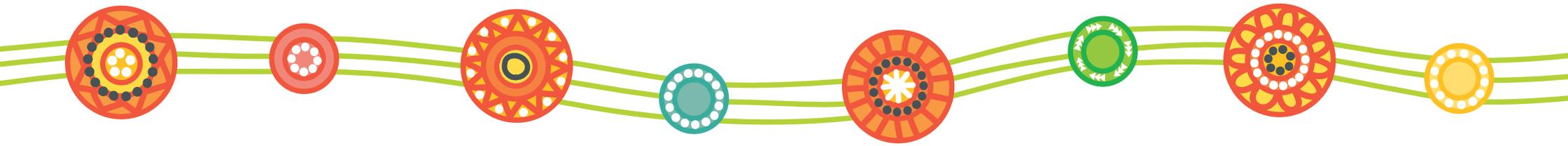
You don't need a Blue Card to be an independent person.

For more information about being a child or family's independent person, go to: qld.gov.au/independentperson



This artwork represents a child at the centre, surrounded by their family and community. The child and their family are supported by their independent person. Everyone is working together so children, families and communities can be safe and thrive.

By Gilimbaa artist Jenna Lee of the Larrakia People.



What is an independent person?

When we work with an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander family, there are many important decisions to make about their child's safety.

When decisions need to be made, the child and family have the right to have an independent person help them have their say.

As an independent person, you can help the child and family:

- ✓ tell us about their family, culture and community
- ✓ feel stronger and make sure everything they want to say is heard
- ✓ explain any personal or cultural matters that are important for making decisions.

You don't make the decisions or speak for them. You help the child and family have a say in decisions that affect them.

You can only be an independent person if the child or family agree. They may ask you to help them have their say in one or more decisions that need to be made.

Being an independent person means you'll know things about the child and family that are confidential. You must respect their privacy and not tell anyone else about what's happening. There can be serious consequences if you share confidential information with other people.

You don't have to be an independent person if you don't want to be.

Can I be an independent person?

You can be an independent person if you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person who:

- ✓ represents the family or child's community or language group
- ✓ is an important person in the child and family's life; and/or
- ✓ can speak about their culture.

