

## Admin, LACO

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**Subject:** FW: SHQ response to: An Inquiry into the Monitoring and Enforcing of Child Safe Standards

**From:** Rebecca Smith

**Sent:** Tuesday, 26 March 2019 1:54 PM

**To:** Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People

**Subject:** SHQ response to: An Inquiry into the Monitoring and Enforcing of Child Safe Standards

**Response to  
STANDARD 2**

**CHILDREN PARTICIPATE IN DECISIONS AFFECTING THEM AND ARE TAKEN SERIOUSLY.**

While not a written submission, as the leading provider of sexual and reproductive health services in WA, SHQ (Sexual Health Quarters) would like The Committee to take into account that confidentiality is vital when promoting young people's access to healthcare, particularly for sensitive issues such as sexual health.

Early prevention or intervention is desirable when it comes to adolescent health problems, with the parents of a minor usually the most appropriate persons to give consent to medical treatment. However, concerns about confidentiality can be a barrier to young people accessing health services, and they are more likely to seek help and disclose information when they know a service is confidential. It is also likely young people will be more invested in uptake of contraception if they themselves have been involved in the decision-making process.

While parental participation is important, evidence of any benefit from mandatory involvement is lacking, and focusing on the rights of parents risks negative health outcomes for many young people. There is widespread support from Australian medical organisations and professional groups for adolescents' access to confidential medical care.

Please let me know if you require further information or would like to discuss the above in more detail.

Yours sincerely,

**Rebecca Smith**

**Director of Brand and Stakeholder Relations**



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This banner features a pink background with a white text box. On the left, there are two icons: a yellow smiley face with red hearts for eyes and a pair of hands with blue lightning bolts. On the right, there are two icons: a purple eggplant and an orange. The background is decorated with colorful circles.



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This banner has a blue background with white icons of various tools like gears, bolts, and wrenches. The text is in white and pink. The bottom part of the banner is a dark purple bar with white text.

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