



# Premier of Queensland

For reply please quote: *LJP/SK – TF/12/11801 – DOC/12/101470*

31 MAY 2012

The Honourable Senator Penny Wright  
Chair of the Standing Committee on  
Legal and Constitutional Affairs  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Executive Building  
100 George Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15185 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia

Telephone +61 7 3224 4500

Facsimile +61 7 3221 3631

Email [ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au](mailto:ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au)

Website [www.thepremier.qld.gov.au](http://www.thepremier.qld.gov.au)



Dear Senator Wright

Thank you for your email of 16 May 2012 inviting Queensland to make a submission to the inquiry into the detention of Indonesian minors in Australia, which is being conducted by the Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs.

Noting the inquiry's terms of reference, I provide the following factual information. As at 17 May 2012, there are 67 prisoners in Queensland who are charged with, or convicted of, a people smuggling offence. Queensland Corrective Services (QCS), the agency that holds these prisoners for the Federal Government, holds no evidence at this time to suggest any of the aforementioned 67 prisoners are minors.

In Queensland, charges against three alleged people smugglers were dropped and the individuals deported back to Indonesia by the Federal Government, as the Federal Government could not determine if the prisoners were 18 years of age or older at the time the offences were committed. The alleged minors were held at Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre and were segregated from the general prisoner population.

QCS acts upon the advice from the Federal Government about the identity and age of people smugglers held in QCS facilities. If QCS suspects an alleged people smuggler to be a minor, age verification is immediately requested from the Federal Attorney-General. QCS also liaises with the Australian Federal Police and the Queensland Police Service to obtain and verify information received regarding the age of alleged people smugglers, including expert scientific reports.

I hope this information assists the committee with its work, and I wish you the very best in the conduct of this inquiry.

Yours sincerely