



22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2026  
Secretary  
Legislative Scrutiny Committee,  
Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory

Dear Secretary,

**CPSU Submission to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee for Care and Protection of Children Legislation Amendment (Every Child Matters) Bill 2026**

The Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU) represents workers across the Northern Territory Department of Children and Families, including child protection practitioners, case managers, administrative staff and support workers.

Our members are the workforce responsible for delivering child protection services across the Territory. They operate at the frontline of complex, high-risk environments and are directly impacted by any legislative changes introduced by the Assembly.

CPSU welcomes the opportunity to make this submission to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee in relation to the Care and Protection of Children Legislation Amendment (Every Child Matters) Bill 2026.

However, this submission is necessarily limited due to the extremely short timeframe provided for consultation.

**Inadequate Timeframe for Consultation**

CPSU's primary concern is that the consultation period is unreasonably short and does not allow for genuine engagement with affected workers.

Submissions were required by close of business, 22 May 2026

This timeframe has made it impossible for CPSU to properly consult with its membership, which include:

- Workers in remote and regional locations;
- Staff working under significant workload and time pressures;
- Frontline practitioners.

Child protection legislation is complex, high-impact, and highly operational. It governs how decisions are made about the safety and wellbeing of children and young people, as well as the legal responsibilities of CPSU members.

A rushed consultation process undermines the quality of input available to the Committee.



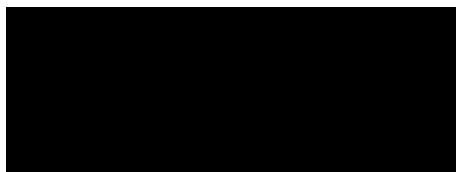
### Ongoing CPSU Consultation and Advocacy

Due to the limited timeframe, CPSU has not been able to complete comprehensive consultation with its membership.

CPSU advises that:

- Consultation with members **is ongoing**;
- Feedback from frontline workers will continue to be gathered;
- CPSU will continue to represent and support members throughout this process and during implementation of any changes.

Kindest regards,



**Suwan Adamson**  
NT Regional Secretary  
Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU)