

2020

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

ADOPTION AMENDMENT BILL 2020

AMENDMENTS TO BE MOVED BY ELIZABETH KIKKERT MLA

SUPPLEMENTARY EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

**Circulated by
Elizabeth Kikkert MLA**

This supplementary explanatory statement relates to the proposed amendments to the Adoption Amendment Bill 2020 (the Bill) by Elizabeth Kikkert as presented to the Legislative Assembly. It has been prepared in order to assist understanding of the amendments and to help inform debate. It does not form part of the of the amendments to the bill and has not been endorsed by the Assembly.

Human Rights

The proposed amendments do not impact on any human rights.

Purpose of the Amendments

These amendments introduce a review clause into the Adoption Amendment Bill in acknowledgement that some stakeholders have asked for its implementation and outcomes to be monitored.

Detail

New Section 122

New section 122 establishes that the minister must review the operation of the amendments made by the bill involving section 5 and section 35. These are substantial changes, expanding the definition of what must be considered regarding a child or young person's best interests and explaining how these best interests must be considered before dispensing with parental consent. Stakeholders who maintain reservations about both the reach and the effectiveness of this bill are specifically concerned about these changes and hope to see a review once data is available to know what the outcomes have been and to know that no unintended consequences have arisen.

This section sets the date for the review two years after implementation to provide more robust data than a one-year review might offer in this space. The minister is to report back within two months.