



# What is an independent person?

**Information  
for Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait  
Islander families**

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.

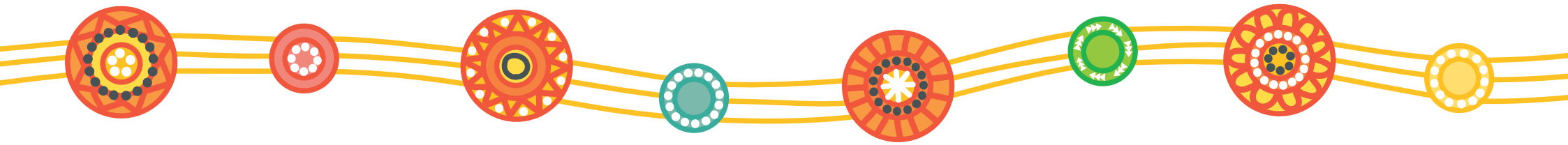
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If you are parents who come from different community or language groups, or have different views, you may each have your own independent person. Your child may also choose to have their own independent person.

We'll respect your choice unless there's a clear reason why the person you choose can't be your independent person.

For more information about having an independent person, go to: [qld.gov.au/independentperson](http://qld.gov.au/independentperson)





## What is an independent person?

When we work with you, there'll be many important decisions to make about your child's safety.

You and your child have a right to have an independent person help you have your say when a decision needs to be made about your child.

An independent person is someone you feel comfortable with and may be important to your family. They are independent from Child Safety.

They can help us understand your child, your family, and your culture and community.

Your independent person can help you and your child:

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

Your independent person does not make decisions or speak for you. They help you have your say in decisions about your child.

Your independent person can come to meetings if you agree.

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

## Who can be my independent person?

You can choose an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person who:

- ✓ represents your child's community or language group
- ✓ is important to you; and/or
- ✓ can speak about your family's culture.

If you want to have an independent person and need help finding one, you can ask your local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community organisations. We can also help you find an independent person.

