

**DRAFT SECOND READING SPEECH**

***Education and Care Services National Law (Application)  
Amendment Bill 2026***

*\*check Hansard for delivery\**

Madam Speaker, I move that the Bill now be read a second time.

Honourable Speaker, I bring to the house today a Bill that will allow us to make a minor amendment to the Education and Care Services National Law (Application) Act 2011, to ensure the full breadth of that law can be applied in Tasmania.

The Education and Care Services National Law sets national standards for children's education and care across Australia. It sets out the National Quality Framework and governs the vast majority of early education and care services in Tasmania.

The National Law is an applied national law; it is hosted nationally by Victoria and in Tasmania it is applied through the *Education and Care Services National Law (Application) Act 2011*.

The Act was introduced as part of a national reform agreed to by all Australian Education Ministers to establish a consistent regulatory framework for early childhood education and care services across Australia, aimed at improving quality, safety, and accountability.

At the time of the Application Acts introduction in Tasmania in 2011, the National Law had provisions that applied through state and territories equivalent 'working with children laws' and – through later amendments - 'working with vulnerable people laws'.

Given the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People system was not a feature of the Tasmanian regulatory landscape in 2011, a declaration was never made to declare it either a 'working with children' or 'working with vulnerable people law'. The

Bill that I introduce to the Parliament today will rectify this, and ensure the regulatory landscape is clear.

The safety of our children and young people continues to be a priority for our government. The Bill allows the national law to be applied fully in Tasmania and provides the best possible protection for children in our early childhood education and care sector. It builds on our already strong and successful RWVP legislation and provides another safety net for Tasmanian Children.

Madam Speaker, I commend the Bill to the House.