

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU ASK SOMEONE TO BE AN INDEPENDENT PERSON?

You can talk with the person or organisation to see if they agree to be your independent person, or you can ask Child Safety to do this.

Child Safety will respect your choice, unless there's a clear reason why the person should not be your independent person.

Child Safety will make sure your independent person has all the information they need and is able to help you to the best of their ability when a decision is being discussed.



“ An independent person can help you to take a more active part in making decisions with Child Safety. ”



This artwork represents a child at the centre, surrounded by their family and community. The child and their family are helped through the decision-making process by an independent person, all working together towards safe and thriving children, families and communities.

By Gilimbaa artist Jenna Lee of the Larrakia People.

For more information about arranging to have an independent person:

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



## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

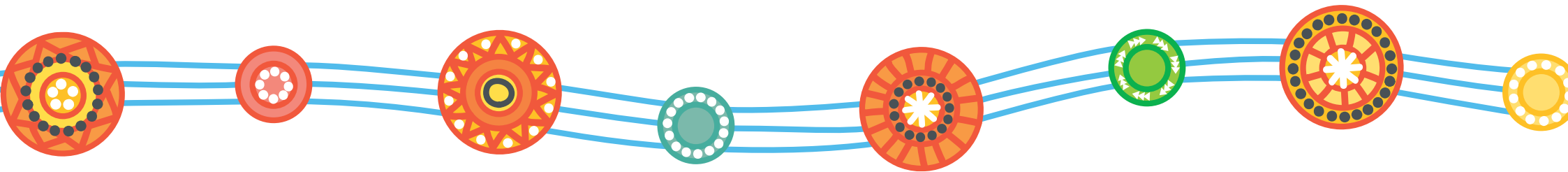


# SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO HAVE THEIR SAY IN DECISIONS



“ Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander families know the strengths and challenges of their own families and communities. ”





So when Child Safety is working with you to make important decisions about your child, you have the right to have an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander independent person to help you when taking part.



“ This is someone who you are comfortable with, who may be an important person in your family’s life, and who will be independent from Child Safety. ”



You may also choose not to have an independent person.

### HOW CAN HAVING AN INDEPENDENT PERSON HELP YOU?

An independent person can help you to take a more active part in making decisions with Child Safety. They can help you have a stronger voice when decisions affecting you and your child are being made.

This might include decisions about an investigation and assessment, safety planning or case planning.

Having an independent person at a meeting with Child Safety can help you to:

- feel stronger and supported to ensure everything you wish to say is heard
- tell Child Safety about your family, culture and community and family support network
- explain any personal or cultural factors which are relevant during the decision-making process.

### WHO CAN BE AN 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
- is able to speak about Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander culture in relation to your child or family.

If you’re not sure who to ask to be an independent person, local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community organisations may be able to help you find someone.

If you are parents who come from different community or language groups, or have different views, you may each have your own independent person. There may also be times when a child chooses to have an independent person who is different from the person chosen by their parents.

