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Aboriginal and 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, it's important for you to know that you can have an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 'independent person' to help you in taking part.

This will be someone who you are comfortable with who is independent from Child Safety.

You may also choose not to have an independent person.

An independent person can help you take part in making important decisions.

This might include decisions about an investigation and assessment, safety planning or making plans for your family.

Having an independent person at meetings with Child Safety can help you feel stronger and supported so that everything you wish to say is heard.

It can also help Child Safety understand your family, culture and community when looking at worries about a child's safety.

You can choose an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person who represents your child's community or language group, or who is important to you and is able to speak about Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander culture in relation to your child and family.

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

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

They'll also make sure your independent person is given information about the decision-making process so that they can help you while you're taking part.

Remember having an independent person will help your voice to be heard.

More information about arranging to have an independent person is available at www.qld.gov.au/independentperson