



22 July 2020

Mr Peter Russo MP
Chair of Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Mr Russo,

Response to question taken on notice during public briefing on the Criminal Code (Choking in Domestic Settings) and Another Act Amendment Bill 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the question taken on notice during the public briefing on the Criminal Code (Choking in Domestic Settings) and Another Act Amendment Bill 2020.

During the briefing, I noted that in 2017-18 there were 1,146 reports made to Queensland police about victims being choked, strangled or suffocated by their partner. However, in 2017-18 there were only 353 convictions for the non-lethal strangulation offence.

In response to this, Melissa McMahon MP asked –

Do you have information on how long most of these cases are taking from complaint to finalisation—that is, a conviction being recorded, no conviction or anything like that? Do you know how long this is taking for it to be investigated and to go through the prosecutorial process?

The statistics I referred to are taken from answers to Questions on Notice No. 1200 and No. 1214 asked on 18 September 2018, which do not reveal the information the member is asking.

However, I am aware through data available on the Queensland Court website that in 2016/17 there was a total of 878 non-lethal strangulation charges lodged in the Magistrates Court. Despite this, in 2017/18 and 2018/19, there was only 353 and 331 convictions respectively, which represent a much smaller proportion of convictions when compared to complaints and charges for the non-lethal strangulation offence.

I trust this addresses any outstanding question.

Yours sincerely,

David Janetzki MP
Shadow Attorney-General
Shadow Minister for Justice