

Gail Easton

From: Jann Crase

Sent: Thursday, 27 October 2011 10:52 AM

To: Legal Affairs Police Corrective Services and Emerg Svc Committee

Subject: Parliamentary Committee re- further comment for the on the proposed amendments to the PPRA - access to interpreters [Scanned]

Good Morning

I understand that the Parliamentary Committee is occupied with the PPRA amendments as well as other legislation.

I would however like to make a few brief points, while providing further supplementary material next week for the Committee's consideration.

There is no debate that our Queensland Police Officers have considerable workloads and must manage multiple tasks at any one time.

The current approach for securing an interpreter is legislatively limited to suspects of an indictable offence and appears to be procedurally cumbersome and unclear.

Clarity around when and how to use interpreters for non- English speaking individuals will assist officers to fulfil their duties. Clarification will reduce uncertainty and limit the need to consult with multiple levels of authority for clearance to utilise an interpreter – saving time, effort and money.

Rapid access to accredited interpreters will enable officers to understand the situation/incident through improved communication and be confident of the appropriate course of action. A clear, streamlined process will improve efficiency and performance.

Clarity and consistency around the use of interpreters by the QPS can be delivered by:

- 1) amending the PPRA to provide for the use of interpreters (under a range of circumstances see below*); in combination with,
- 2) straightforward procedures to guide officers in the practical use of interpreters (supported by training).

The other benefits in providing greater access to interpreters for individuals from a culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) background include:

- Providing equal and fair access to the QPS;
- Meeting the needs of CALD individuals and their communities;
- Improving positive relationships between CALD communities and the police – leading to better settlement outcomes, improved crime prevention etc;
- Meeting the purposes of the PPRA (s.5) and providing tangible implementation of the QPS and Queensland Government multicultural policy regime (QPS Multicultural Action Plan, QPS Language Services Policy, Qld Government Multicultural Action Plan, Qld Government Language Services Police, Qld Government Multicultural Policy – A multicultural future for us all).

I will be providing further supplementary material next week for the Committee's consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me on 0414 626 802 to discuss this matter.

Kind regards
Jann Crase

* An accredited interpreter is provided under the following circumstances:

- a) in the early investigative stages (before it is clear whether an offence has been committed);
- b) whether an indictable or simple offence has been committed;

- c) *whether the person is a suspect, witness or victim;*
- d) *in any potential domestic and family violence situation.*

Jann Crase

Multicultural Development Advocacy Worker (Wed - Thurs)

Centacare Migrant Services

Tel: 07 4041 7699

part of the Community Action for a Multicultural Society (CAMS) Network



Level One, Virginia House
68 Abbott Street
Cairns Qld 4870

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