

INQUIRY INTO SUPPORT PROVIDED TO VICTIMS OF CRIME

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Submitter Comments:

My involvement with the Qld police and DPP was due to the homicide of my sister which occurred many years ago and was the subject of a cold case investigation. Since the arrest of the alleged perpetrator of the crime, there have been many contacts with the Queensland Police and the DPP. I cannot speak highly enough of the support we received from the Queensland Police that we were involved with, during the cold case investigation some 4 years ago. Also the initial stages of the process through the DPP guided us along with the issues of the trial process and was effective in keeping us up-to-date with the progress of the prosecution. As the time elapsed and the trial dates were vacated and reset, the amount of information received was less informative, and requiring follow-ups to the DPP about court mentions relating to the case. Also, over the period of time since the arrest of the alleged perpetrator, there have been 3 changes to the Crown Prosecutor allotted to the case which it seems has led to delays. Whilst it is acknowledged that changes occur, there should be a consistent approach in the way the delays are communicated and explained. The length of the time from the crime event to the apprehension of the alleged perpetrator does not qualify us for victim financial assistance to attend the trial process. The further complication for me is that my family live interstate which will create accommodation and travel costs. The review needs to address the issue of cold cases in the provision of financial assistance, where the issue of counselling or other support services are no longer necessary, but the finalisation through the court system is still to occur.