



Speech by

Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Thursday, 16 September 2010

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Victims of Crime

Hon. CR DICK (Greenslopes—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.18 am): The Bligh Labor government is and always has been committed to supporting the recovery of victims of crime. Last year, the Victims of Crime Assistance Bill 2009 was passed by the parliament. The legislation established a new victim support scheme to replace the more cumbersome criminal injury compensation scheme. The new scheme, titled Victim Assist Queensland, commenced on 1 December last year and has been something of a blessing for victims of violent crimes who need help and support. Victim Assist Queensland provides a one-stop shop for victims of crime to get access to financial assistance to pay for services such as medical, dental and counselling expenses.

An assessment of the service's first eight months of operation demonstrates how well it is working. A total of 334 applications were approved up to mid-August 2010 and almost \$2.2 million has been distributed to applicants to help them recover from their injuries and get on the road to recovery. As part of our ongoing commitment to helping victims of crime, the state government has now released a new booklet titled *A guide for victims of crime in Queensland* that makes it even easier to get quicker access to support and services. I table a copy of the booklet for the information of all honourable members.

Tabled paper: Document, dated August 2010, by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General titled 'A guide for victims of crime in Queensland' [[2986](#)].

The new booklet has been designed to help people affected by an act of violence and their loved ones recover more readily and start rebuilding their lives. The guide has been launched in Brisbane and will be further promoted among regional stakeholders through upcoming local launches in Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton and Ipswich. This new guide contains information about people's rights as a victim of crime, going to court as a witness, applying for financial assistance and where to go for counselling and legal support. Its content and format was shaped by consultation with key stakeholders such as Protect All Children Today, Relationships Australia, the Living Well men's program, Women Working Alongside Women with Intellectual Disabilities, Bravehearts, the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Queensland Police Service. Stakeholder response regarding the guide has been extremely positive and I sincerely thank them for their help and contribution. The guide is available in hard copy at all public libraries across the state and also on the Victim Assist Queensland section of the department's website at www.justice.qld.gov.au. The production of this guide highlights the continued commitment by the Bligh government to providing accessible information and services to victims of crime.