



Speech By  
**Hon. Yvette D'Ath**


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 June 2017

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Budget, Criminal Justice System

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (9.56 am): Today's budget will be great news for the criminal justice system in Queensland. The Palaszczuk government has allocated funds to a rollout of specialist courts that tackle drugs and domestic and family violence. This budget reaffirms our commitment to tackling domestic and family violence with \$69.5 million allocated in this budget to make the Southport Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Court permanent and to expand the model to Beenleigh and Townsville. There will also be circuit courts to Mount Isa and Palm Island. These locations were selected based on the significant volume of domestic and family violence matters in those locations. There is no doubt that the ever-increasing number of victims coming forward to the police in our courts is evidence that the public now have more confidence that the justice system will support them through the process.

The government committed to evaluating the Southport trial to ensure that any future model is based on best practice. I table the report from the Griffith Criminology Institute, *Evaluation of the specialist domestic and family violence court trial in Southport*.

*Tabled paper:* Griffith University Criminology Institute, Evaluation of the specialist domestic and family violence court trial in Southport, Summary and Final Reports [\[890\]](#).

The Palaszczuk government also recognises that a specialist approach to drug offending in the criminal justice system will help tackle the growing drug problem in Queensland. This budget commits \$22.7 million of new funding over four years to reinstate the Drug Court in Brisbane and court referral and support services after a comprehensive report was conducted. I table the *Queensland drug and specialist courts review: final report*.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Drug and Specialist Courts Review, Final Report, November 2016 [\[891\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Drug and Specialist Courts Review, Final Report, Appendices Part A, November 2016 [\[892\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Drug and Specialist Courts Review, Final Report, Appendices Part B, November 2016 [\[893\]](#).

The Drug Court will provide an intensive, targeted and effective sentencing option for offenders whose behaviour is driven by a dependency on drugs or alcohol and will help reduce reoffending by addressing the underlying causes of addiction. The focus on the Drug Court will be to meet a defendant's needs to reduce the risks of future reoffending and to stabilise the defendant prior to sentencing. Crime is a complex issue in our society, and it is pleasing that this budget delivers on comprehensive evidence based policy that will help tackle two of the main issues in the criminal justice system.