




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2017

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Scown, Mr M

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.01 am): The public were rightly disturbed by the response of Mr Matthew Scown as he left court yesterday after sentencing in the Tyrell Cobb case. I can advise that I have requested a brief from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions on this matter.

In speaking more generally, I can say that there is a growing concern from the general public about whether sentencing for criminal offences arising from the death of a child is meeting the community's expectations. The government believes that this is an important area for consideration. That is why I will be referring an inquiry to the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council relating to sentencing arising from offences resulting in the death of a child.

The Palaszczuk government re-established the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council to undertake this type of important work—to undertake the research and provide reports that can help guide good policy and legislation into the future. I have already spoken to the Director of Public Prosecutions and the chair of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council to advise them of this referral. Once the terms of reference are released, I encourage the community to have their say on this important issue. When the death of a child occurs we are all heartbroken, but when that death occurs at the hands of another person we all want to ensure that the community's expectations are being met to hold people to account.