




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Homicide Victims' Support Group

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.11 am): When someone steals the life of another person, it is an affront to our collective humanity. The ripple effects are spread far and wide, causing untold pain and often hardship. That is why the work and support of the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group is so critical to our community. I acknowledge that there are members of the support group in the gallery today. I acknowledge and pay tribute to them on this their annual awareness day.

For many years now, those who make up this very special organisation have been standing shoulder to shoulder with those who are enduring unbearable heartache. The Palaszczuk government always has provided support to the Homicide Victims' Support Group to carry out its vital work. Last year our government appropriately increased funding to the group by \$1 million over five years, to boost the services that the group can provide to those in need. This funding boost to the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group will support additional counselling services for victims. At the time, the chair of the Homicide Victims' Support Group, Dr Samara McPhedran, said—

This funding will help us dramatically expand the services and support we can provide.

Not only do these selfless and caring people provide emotional support to other people in their darkest days; they also help people in a practical fashion. They do this by providing people assistance with understanding the judicial process and with the preparation of victim impact statements. They recognise that, at a time of great emotional distress, advice and support in relation to these practical matters is of enormous benefit.

The Queensland Police Service is committed to ensuring that the perpetrators of the most serious of crimes are brought before the courts. That is because justice must be done. Justice must be done for the victims and, importantly, justice must be done for those loved ones left behind. Justice never relents. Justice never sleeps. Just as there must be justice, there must also be compassion, empathy, understanding and support. On this the annual awareness day for the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group, we pay tribute to them and the support they provide to Queenslanders in some of the toughest of circumstances.