




Speech By  
**Fiona Simpson**

**MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 November 2023

**VICTIMS OF CRIME ASSISTANCE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT  
BILL**

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (4.51 pm): In rising to speak on the Victims of Crime Assistance and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, I acknowledge the contributions of my colleagues, particularly around the issues involving failures in the forensic lab and the absolute scandal involving DNA testing. This has added to the burden of so many victims of crime, some of whom have not yet received justice because of this extraordinary failure. This failure happened under Labor and did not receive attention when it was first raised publicly. In fact, we know that this Labor government repeatedly denied there was a problem and accused the LNP and others who raised this publicly of politicking. It has been shown that what we were raising was correct. Tragically, many cases are yet to be resolved. Potentially over 100,000 samples have to be retested for 37,000 cases. That is extraordinary. We must not forget those who have been put through the additional hell of being revictimised by a justice system that has failed them. This is the most extraordinary failure of a forensic lab. The system has broken down on multiple fronts. There is still a need for a full royal commission or a full commission of inquiry to properly assess this.

While I welcome the increasing amounts of compensation and reimbursement in this bill for victims of crime, we want to see fewer victims. We know that there has been an outbreak of crime in our state. There has also been a failure to recruit more police officers and the government has weakened our laws. I make this final point, as I know debate will shortly be guillotined with the end of the sittings: this failure at the DNA lab has to be one of the worst in the world. There are too many people who already have been through an absolute nightmare or who are no longer alive. Their families seek justice and have a right to receive justice. Until we have a full royal commission or a full commission of inquiry that is able to get to the bottom of who was at fault, how this failure happened and how we can ensure it does not happen again, then justice will not be served. The very brief second commission of inquiry made one finding—

Given that the scope of this COI has not enabled a full examination of the roles of any of the individuals within the hierarchy of the QHFSS Laboratory, I do not consider that there is sufficient evidence before me to determine the question, fairly and within the allowed timeframe, of where the full accountability for the decision ... and its consequences lies.

That statement fuels our absolute commitment to ensuring that justice must be served. We will not see that until there is a full commission of inquiry that gets to the bottom of this.