




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 23 August 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Victims of Crime

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.04 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to listening to and supporting victims of crime. That is why during the estimates hearings I was pleased to be able to update the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee on the work the Palaszczuk government is undertaking to support victims of crime in Queensland. Again, I thank the committee for the 18 recommendations made in their inquiry into the support provided to victims of crime and I was pleased to table the government's response indicating support or support in principle for all 18 recommendations. I was also proud to announce that the Palaszczuk government will be appointing an interim Queensland victims commissioner.

I am pleased to advise the House that the interim commissioner will be announced shortly and will commence in their role at the start of next month. The interim commissioner will be appointed while the necessary administrative and legislative arrangements are made to enable the appointment of a permanent commissioner. The proposed functions of the interim victims commissioner include: engaging with victims of crime and their families, associated support services and criminal justice agencies to identify, develop and provide consistent and accessible resources for victims of crime to understand their rights, the criminal justice process and how to access supports and assistance; raising awareness of the rights of victims of crime and the services available to them; and identifying the training needs for government agencies to interact with victims of crime in a trauma informed manner and identify what if any additional training should be developed and delivered by the victims commissioner. The interim victims commissioner will be appointed for a term that will enable them to support the permanent commissioner, who will be appointed by the end of this financial year.

We have consulted with existing interstate victims commissioners and key Queensland government agencies involved in service delivery to victims and complaints handling to develop an appropriate model for the Queensland victims commissioner. This appointment will support the extensive work currently being undertaken by the Palaszczuk government to support victims of crime in Queensland. We have committed over \$600 million over five years to support responses to the more than 300 recommendations made by the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce and the commission of inquiry into police responses to domestic and family violence. Earlier this year we announced an additional \$9 million over four years to support victims of violent crime. The Palaszczuk government is committed to continuing its reform agenda to modernise our justice system to ensure that it is more responsive to the needs of victims and to better ensure community safety and confidence.