




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 12 September 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Victims Commissioner; Disability Royal Commission, Recommendations

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (9.58 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to making sure Queensland victims feel safe and heard. On 23 August, I advised this House that the government intended to appoint an interim victims commissioner at the beginning of September. I am pleased to advise the House that Mr Jon Rouse APM has been appointed as Queensland's interim Victims' Commissioner. Mr Rouse will be well known to members for his distinguished 39 years of service with the Queensland Police Service and his groundbreaking work with Taskforce Argos targeting internet child sex offenders.

Jon was a Queensland Australian of the Year in 2019, is the recipient of many Police Service medals and international awards for his incredible work in the fight against the commercial and sexual exploitation of children and is the perfect person to act as the interim Victims' Commissioner. Jon joined Minister Ryan, Minister Farmer, senior public servants and me at a meeting with representatives from the Voice for Victims advocacy group on 6 September 2023 in addition to meeting the group during the last sitting week. I was pleased to be able to inform the representatives that the Queensland government would be supporting the creation of an independent advisory committee co-chaired by a victim and a retired judge which would consist of victims advocates and other experts and stakeholders who could provide the government an additional voice for proposals for reform.

The Palaszczuk government is working with Voice for Victims and other stakeholders to determine the advisory group's membership, terms of reference and a potential expression of interest process to secure broad representation. In addition, the Palaszczuk government has also advised that it supports ensuring that there is a victims representative on the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council and the Parole Board of Queensland. We announce today, as the Premier has stated, that we will establish a select parliamentary committee chaired by the independent member for Noosa, and I thank her for accepting that position. I will be writing to the opposition today to request nominees for membership of this committee.

Last week the Disability Royal Commission released its report into public hearing 33, Kaleb and Jonathon. Minister Crawford will have more to say regarding this matter shortly. However, I am pleased to advise the House that in respect to recommendations 5.2 to 5.4 the Queensland Ombudsman has discussed the recommendation with me and will be conducting the independent review as recommended by the royal commission.