




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 16 November 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) (10.32 am): The Palaszczuk government is absolutely focused on putting the needs of victims of crime front and centre. That is why we have appointed former Queensland Australian of the Year Mr Jon Rouse APM as Queensland's Interim Victims' Commissioner. Just yesterday I had the privilege of joining Mr Rouse in speaking at the National Victims of Crime Day afternoon tea at Parliament House. We were fortunate to hear from a panel of courageous victim-survivors who spoke from the heart and shared their stories.

The theme for the event was hope. Those glimmers of hope were apparent in the accounts of the victim-survivors who spoke of the vital assistance and support they have received along their long and difficult paths to recovery. The event was also a chance to recognise the important reform work underway within the sector. In his role, Mr Rouse will be engaging with victims of crime, victim support services and criminal justice agencies to hear about victims' experiences of the criminal justice system.

Today I can advise the House that the Interim Victims' Commissioner will be holding a series of workshops across the state with victim support and criminal justice sector agencies between now and the end of the year. The workshops start today in Brisbane and sessions in Toowoomba, Mount Isa, Townsville, Cairns, Logan, the Gold Coast and Redlands will follow. Consultation with agencies that work closely with victims is just the first step and will help identify issues faced by some of the most vulnerable members of our community. Broader consultation will begin early next year.

We know that in the immediate aftermath of a crime many people do not know what support is available to them or sometimes they do not even know what support they need. Our Interim Victims' Commissioner is bridging that gap, doing the work now to ensure that we can provide the best support possible into the future.

We must ensure that our justice system puts victims of crime front and centre in every element of our response. Once again I want to thank the courageous victim-survivors for having a voice and sharing their lived experiences which will help us build a stronger system to respond and support. I also want to acknowledge all of the agencies and service providers who also support victims. Many of them were represented yesterday including the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Queensland Police Service and, of course, along with a lot of other agencies and service providers. I want to acknowledge their tremendous work, the trauma that they see each and every day and the effect that has on their jobs. I thank them for what they do.