

Question on Notice

No. 577

Asked on 21 August 2013

MR HATHAWAY asked the Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (MS DAVIS)—

QUESTION

What measures are being taken by the department and the Queensland Government to support people who are victims of domestic and family violence?

ANSWER

The Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services funds a broad range of support services to assist victims of domestic and family violence.

In 2013–14, funds of \$23.626 million have been allocated under the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention and Support program to assist people affected by domestic and family violence.

Services funded include:

- specialist counselling and support for adult victims and children
- safety upgrades services to improve home security and allow victims to remain in their homes where it is safe to do so
- intervention programs for people who perpetrate abuse
- court support services for people seeking protection from domestic violence through the courts
- DVConnect – the statewide domestic violence helpline. The Womensline provides 24 hour telephone counselling and support to victims and assists women and their children escaping violence to access safe refuge accommodation. Men affected by domestic and family violence can call DVConnect's Mensline seven days per week, 9.00am to midnight for information and support.

On 17 September 2012, the new *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012* commenced. The new legislation offers greater protection to victims of domestic and family violence across Queensland.

The department works closely with other government agencies including the Queensland Police Service and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General to ensure victims can access protection and assistance through the courts.

The Queensland Government has allocated a further \$19.375 in 2013–14 to provide accommodation and support services for women and children escaping domestic and family violence, managed by the Department of Housing and Public Works.

In addition to directly supporting victims, the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services focuses on prevention, raising awareness and building community intolerance of domestic and family violence.

Each year, the department coordinates Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month in May to raise community awareness of domestic violence. Community organisations are funded to hold local awareness raising events and activities.

In 2013, the Government launched the *Make the Call* campaign. This three year social marketing domestic violence prevention campaign encourages people concerned about someone they know to call DVConnect for advice on how to help.

At a national level, the Queensland Government is working with other jurisdictions to implement the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2010–22.

Under the National Plan, Queensland has contributed to the establishment of a National Centre of Excellence to support evidence-based responses to reduce sexual, domestic and family violence across Australia through its Mackay-based Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research.

The Queensland Government remains committed to making this State a safer place for victims of domestic and family violence.