

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 34**

**Asked on 23 February 2021**

**MR J LISTER** ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND MINISTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE (HON S FENTIMAN) –

### **QUESTION:**

With reference to correspondence dated 22 February 2021, sent to the Minister by ‘GK’ (a copy of which has been supplied to me by the author and their representative), seeking a meeting with the Minister to discuss institutional child sexual abuse— Will the Attorney-General advise (a) how many such requests from institutional child sexual abuse survivors have been received by the Minister since she assumed her present portfolios and (b) how many of the requests for meetings with the Minister referred to in (a) have been agreed to by the Minister in the period between her assumption of her present ministerial portfolios and 22 Feb 2021?

### **ANSWER:**

Any form of child sexual abuse is abhorrent and that is why protecting children is one of the highest priorities for the Palaszczuk Government.

In 2020, the Palaszczuk Government implemented recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse to:

- provide for retrospective application of the offence in section 229B (Maintaining a sexual relationship with a child);
- extend the grooming offence in section 218B (Grooming children under 16) to certain persons other than the child;
- provide for retrospective application of the removal of limitation periods on prosecutions for certain child sexual offences;
- create a new offence of failure to report belief of child sexual offence that requires all adults to report child sexual abuse to police;
- create a new offence of failure to protect a child from child sexual offence that applies in an institutional context;
- ensure that the new failure to report and protect offences apply to information or knowledge gained during, or in connection with, a religious confession;
- exclude good character as a mitigating factor at sentence where that good character facilitated the child sexual offending;
- provide that when sentencing offenders for historical child sexual offences the court is to sentence offenders in accordance with sentencing standards at the time the sentence is imposed, rather than at the time of the offending;
- modify jury directions and warnings in relation to delay and forensic disadvantage; and
- support establishment of a pilot intermediary scheme.

I can advise that since I have assumed the role of Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, I have received two requests to meet with survivors of institutional child sexual abuse. One meeting has occurred. In relation to the second request, a meeting has been organised.