

Question on Notice

No. 966

Asked on 1 September 2022

MS S BOLTON 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 the response in the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee Estimates hearings regarding Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Courts —

Will the Attorney-General (a) outline the program for the roll-out of additional DFV courts funded in the budget for \$58m over the next four years and (b) clarify whether a DFV court will be provided for in the Wide-Bay, Noosa and Sunshine Coast areas?

ANSWER:

I thank the member for Noosa for her question.

As part of the investment package to implement the recommendations of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, *Hear her voice - Report one*, the Queensland Government has committed \$60.4 million over four years to expand the specialist domestic and family violence court program to establish two new specialist courts in Brisbane and Cairns, to support the existing specialist domestic and family violence courts in Southport, Beenleigh, Townsville, Mount Isa and Palm Island, and to build the capability of court responses to domestic and family violence.

Work has commenced towards establishment of the two new specialist domestic and family violence courts based on need, including the development of key milestones, and preliminary engagement with stakeholders to ensure a collaborative approach to roll out.

The Queensland Government has invested a further \$49.1 million over four years to improve courthouse facilities in Brisbane, Cairns, Caboolture, Ipswich, Mackay, Maroochydore, Rockhampton, and Toowoomba, to ensure they are safe, functional, client-centred and trauma-informed and improve safety for victims of domestic and family violence while attending court.

While a specialist DFV court is not currently planned for the Wide-Bay and Sunshine Coast regions including Noosa, courts servicing those locations are expected to benefit from state-wide investment to build the capability of court responses to domestic and family violence. The Department of Justice and Attorney-General will continue to monitor indicators of need and demand to inform any future recommendations to roll out specialist domestic and family violence courts.