

Question on Notice

No. 648

Asked on 22 May 2024

MRS L GERBER ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, MINISTER FOR PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE (HON Y D'ATH)

QUESTION:

Will the Attorney-General provide the number of Victims Assist Queensland applications which have taken over six months to process from date of application to payment of financial benefits (reported separately by type of benefit and financial year) for the last three years and for 2023-24 to date?

ANSWER:

The Miles Government is committed to supporting victims of crime in Queensland.

That is why we have committed \$45 million in funding under a targeted victim's support package to help vulnerable Queenslanders when they need it most. This includes more than \$15 million for Victim Assist Queensland (VAQ) to ensure the timely delivery of financial assistance to victims of crime.

The Government is also investing more than \$200 million over the next five years to enhance support for victims of crime in Queensland. This funding includes \$185 million to increase financial assistance limits payable to victims and resources for VAQ.

The number of applications for financial assistance increased from 4,935 applications in 2021-22 to 7,463 in 2022-23. VAQ has received more than 16,200 applications for financial assistance so far in 2023-24, as at 31 May 2024.

Since 2017, when assistance was extended to all forms of domestic and family violence, there has been a 195 per cent increase in applications.

Applications can take longer to decide if VAQ needs to wait for further supporting information to decide the application.

VAQ prioritises urgent medical treatment, funeral expenses, security and relocation expenses for domestic and family violence victims referred by High Risk Teams.

I am advised the number of **primary victims** who waited over six months for a payment was 1,729 for applications received in 2020-21 (46% of all 2020-21 applications decided), 2,513 applications in 2021-22 (61.8% of all 2021-22 applications decided) and 1,416 applications in 2022-23 (23.7% of all 2022-23 applications decided). As at 31 May 2024, only 336 primary victims who applied in 2023-24 waited over six months for a payment (4.4% of all 2023-24 applications decided).

I am advised the number of **related victims** who waited over six months for a payment was 74 for applications received in 2020-21 (2% of all 2020-21 applications decided), 95 applications in 2021-22 (2.3% of all 2021-22 applications decided) and 10 applications in 2022-23 (0.2% of all 2022-23 applications decided). As at 31 May 2024, only one related

victim who applied in 2023-24 waited over six months for a payment (0.01% of all 2023-24 applications decided).

I am advised the number of **parent secondary victims** who waited over six months for a payment was 25 for applications received in 2020-21 (0.7% of all 2020-21 applications decided), 25 applications in 2021-22 (0.6% of all 2021-22 applications decided) and 11 applications in 2022-23 (0.2% of all 2022-23 applications decided). As at 31 May 2024, only five parent secondary victims who applied in 2023-24 waited over six months for a payment (0.07% of all 2023-24 applications decided).

I am advised the number of **witness secondary victims** who waited over six months for a payment was 10 for applications received in 2020-21 (0.27% of all 2020-21 applications decided), six applications in 2021-22 (0.15% of all 2021-22 applications decided) and four applications in 2022-23 (0.07% of all 2022-23 applications decided). As at 31 2024, only one witness secondary victim who applied in 2023-24 waited over six months for a payment (0.01% of all 2023-24 applications decided).