



MEETING COMMUNIQUÉ

Wednesday, 23 February 2018
Brisbane

On Friday, **23 February 2018**, the Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council held its first meeting for the year. The Council acknowledged the contribution of former ex-officio members, **Natalie Parker, Brett Pointing, Merrilyn Strohfeldt** and **Dr Graham Fraine**, who had left the Council. New government representatives **Jenny Lang, Acting Deputy Commissioner Paul Stewart, Amanda Currie** and **Rebecca McGarrity** were welcomed to the Council meeting.

As part of its consideration of progress in the implementation of the domestic and family violence reform program, the Council considered an update on the **Engagement and Communication Strategy** noting the positive results from the evaluation of the **Stop the Hurting – End Domestic Violence** youth campaign. The Council also noted an update on a briefing members had attended in relation to the next public campaign under the strategy which will focus on bystander behaviour.

The Council's **education work group** reported on a recent meeting held with representatives from the **Department of Education, Independent Schools Queensland** and the **Queensland Catholic Education Commission**. The meeting focused on the implementation of respectful relationships education programs in Queensland schools. The strong commitment of all sectors to promoting respectful relationships and engaging with domestic and family violence as a social, community and workplace issue was noted, as was the collegiality between the state, Catholic and independent school sectors in their responses to the issue.

In the second half of the meeting the Council was joined by the **Honourable Di Farmer MP, the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence**. Minister Farmer spoke to the Council about her long-term interest in the work of the Special Taskforce and the Council, indicating she was enthusiastic about work planned as part of the domestic and family violence reform program in 2018.

In the final part of the meeting, the Council was joined by representatives from **Queensland Corrective Services** to discuss **interventions for perpetrators of domestic and family violence in the correctional system**.

The **Commissioner for Queensland Corrective Services** and the **Director for Offender Rehabilitation and Management, Queensland Corrective Services** addressed the Council, providing an overview of Queensland Corrective Services' responsibilities and the measures and programs that Queensland Corrective Services has in place to support the rehabilitation of domestic and family violence offenders.

Key issues arising from the presentation and subsequent discussion, included:

- the **prevalence of domestic and family violence offending** in the prison population
- steps that Queensland Corrective Services has taken implement **recommendation 81** of the *Not Now, Not Ever* report which **increases access to therapeutic interventions for domestic and family violence offenders** in prisons
- the **specific programs that Queensland Corrective Services currently provides** to support the rehabilitation of domestic and family violence offenders, and work underway **to develop additional programs to target domestic and family violence offending** among prisoners
- the **high levels of domestic and family violence victimisation among Queensland's female prison population**, and the programs and measures Queensland Corrective Services has put in place to **support female prisoners to avoid future victimisation**
- Queensland Corrective Services' strong focus on **up-to-date research and evidence** as the basis for the programs that it implements
- measures that **Queensland Corrective Services** has in place **to monitor reoffending** among prisoners with a history of domestic and family violence, including tracking reoffending rates of prisoners who have completed therapeutic programs
- measures that Queensland Corrective Services has in place to **identify and respond to risks** that domestic and family violence offenders might pose to family members, and
- the importance of ensuring that perpetrator interventions in the correctional system **complement related measures in the domestic and family violence and child safety support sectors**.

As part of the meeting, the Council also considered a range of administrative issues, including reviewing its terms of reference, endorsing its progress report for the previous year and identifying priorities for its work in 2018.