



## MEETING COMMUNIQUÉ

Friday, 24 February 2017  
Brisbane

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On Friday, 24 February 2017, the Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council (Council) held its tenth meeting in Brisbane. **The Honourable Shannon Fentiman MP, Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence** was in attendance for part of the meeting.

Minister Fentiman acknowledged the Chair, the Honourable Quentin Bryce AD CVO, who is **concluding her term of appointment on Council**. The Minister recorded the appreciation of the Premier and Queensland Government for the Chair's **significant contribution to domestic and family violence reform in Queensland** through her work as the Chair of Council and leading the Special Taskforce which produced a road map for reform through the *Not Now, Not Ever* report.

**The Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills** was welcomed to the meeting to provide an update on actions taken by the Queensland Government following the death of Teresa Bradford.

The Attorney-General, along with Minister Fentiman, began by acknowledging the **tragedy of Ms Bradford's death**, and the shock and sadness with which it has impacted the Queensland community.

The Attorney-General advised that the Government is examining **bail arrangements in other jurisdictions**, in particular the **reverse onus or 'show cause' process for bail** for domestic and family violence offences. The Attorney-General advised that the key consideration for the Government was to assess whether changes would result in a **more effective system** in Queensland.

The Attorney-General advised that legislation has been introduced to expand capability for **GPS monitoring** of offenders on parole, with consideration also being given to monitoring of domestic and family violence offenders. In considering GPS monitoring, consideration is also required of **risks and possible impacts on victims**, and use of such systems in **remote communities**.

Legislation is currently before Parliament which would expand the rights of victims of crime, including facilitating the provision of **notifications to victims** when offenders are being released through adoption of a new **Charter of Victims' Rights**.

The effects of previous reforms to the law and justice framework were also emphasised, including the **introduction of the notation scheme**, which informs Magistrates' decisions by providing an offender's history of domestic violence offending, **creation of the new offence of non-fatal strangulation in a domestic setting** and **increases in penalties**.

The Attorney-General advised that **consultation with relevant stakeholders** would be undertaken in implementing any changes.

Council was then briefed on **community research** undertaken by Enhance Research on attitudes towards domestic and family violence. This research was undertaken through **focus groups and a survey** in January and February 2017 and included **comparison to similar research** undertaken in December 2014 and January 2015 as part of the *Not Now, Not Ever* report.

**Key findings** of the research in relation to domestic and family violence included:

- it remains an **important social issue**, and is seen to have been the subject of increased focus in recent years
- it is considered **common and increasing in prominence** but is perceived as less common in individuals' own communities
- it remains **difficult to discuss in social situations**, although social media appears to be facilitating more open discussion of the issue
- it is generally understood to encompass **both physical and non-physical** behaviours
- people view it as **inexcusable**, although some contributing factors are seen to explain it in certain circumstances
- there is an increased awareness of **gender issues** compared to previous research, although it is broadly accepted that males are more likely to be perpetrators
- people remain **uncertain about action they should take to intervene** as bystanders, however, awareness of possible referral to support services is increasing
- **action by government** is supported, with initiatives such as increased penalties, support for victims and respectful relationships education considered to be particularly important
- **perpetrators are ultimately considered to be responsible** for addressing their violent behaviour.

Council noted the most recent **quarterly implementation progress report** provided by the Queensland Government in December 2016, covering implementation progress up to 30 November 2016.

Council concluded the meeting with discussion of its **12-month report** to be delivered to the Premier and Minister Fentiman, covering the first year of Council's operations to 30 November 2016.