

Question on Notice
No. 451
Asked on 20 May 2020

MS BOLTON ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the complexity and increase in domestic violence (DV) cases during COVID-19 and projected beyond—

Will the Minister advise if there is any consideration of an independent entity to review DV cases in dispute as requested previously?

ANSWER:

This Government will always put victims first and condemn the perpetrators of domestic and family violence.

Further, this Government is taking urgent action to support domestic and family violence victims with the immediate injection of almost \$5.5 million to help manage an anticipated increase in demand for services arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are boosting support for essential government-funded services, so that people have someone to turn to and somewhere else to go should they need assistance.

Depending on a person's circumstances and needs, this could include shelters, hotels or residential properties. Service providers will work with victims to place them in the safest and most appropriate accommodation for their individual needs.

We will also continue to deliver enhanced services, policies and training for police. You may be interested to know that this Government in May 2018 provided funding for an additional 24 specialist police Domestic and Family Violence Coordinators spread across the state, with key police districts establishing Vulnerable Persons Units.

Further, the Queensland Police Service (QPS) continues to invest in specific vulnerable persons and specialist training for police. It is specifically focused on the response to domestic and family violence – and again – putting the victim first. I have been assured that police will continue to protect the victims and hold perpetrators of domestic and family violence to account for their actions.

This government will continue to provide the QPS with the resources they need to do this critical work, with improved access to frontline technology such as mobile QLITE devices that enable Police Protection Notices to be issued on the spot, saving time and ultimately saving lives.

In response to the COVID-19 global pandemic and the challenges it poses with additional time spent at home, the QPS has developed a new online Domestic and Family Violence tool for victims to request police contact non-life-threatening DFV matters.

Should a member of the public wish to make a complaint regarding the handling of a domestic violence matter they may lodge a report with the Ethical Standards Command or the Crime and Corruption Commission.