



MEETING COMMUNIQUÉ

Wednesday, 24 August 2016
Brisbane

On Wednesday, 24 August 2016, the Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council (Council) held its sixth meeting. The meeting focused on **policing responses** to domestic and family violence within the **law and justice framework**, one of three key themes of the *Not Now, Not Ever* report.

The **Commissioner of Police** led a presentation to Council from members of the **Queensland Police Service (QPS)** on the implementation of recommendations of the *Not Now, Not Ever* report.

QPS representatives highlighted key aspects of the reform process to date including:

- a **leadership statement** re-affirming QPS's commitment to eliminate domestic and family violence in Queensland
- a QPS **domestic and family violence support package** to support affected members
- work to **drive cultural change** within the QPS including appointing a QPS Deputy Commissioner as champion for best practice domestic and family violence prevention and response (**recommendation 137**) and delegating District Officers responsibilities as cultural champions
- changes to policies and guidelines relating to **use of interpreters (recommendations 113 and 114)**
- enhancing the capacity of the **Domestic and Family Violence Coordinator network (recommendation 135)** and reinstatement of the **Domestic and Family Violence State Coordinator** role (**recommendation 136**)
- a strategy to **increase prosecutions** of domestic and family violence offences, supported by legislative amendments in the **Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 (recommendation 131)**
- a trial of **body worn cameras** to enhance QPS evidence-gathering practices
- a **crime mapping tool** to track domestic and family violence-related crime statistics
- **independent review of QPS training packages** being conducted by the Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research (**recommendation 138**) and roll-out of **additional training to police officers**.

Council received an overview of the **Partnership Response at Domestic Occurrences (PRADO)** project implemented by QPS in Caboolture. The PRADO project is an **integrated response** developed to address low take-up rates for police referrals, repeat calls for service in Caboolture and to improve information exchange between agencies.

Through the PRADO project, a **social worker** from the Caboolture Domestic Violence Service is located with the QPS, and helps **address barriers and provide direct support to victims of domestic and family violence**. QPS reported that the PRADO project had resulted in a **significant increase** in take-ups for domestic and family violence referrals.

Council also heard from **Associate Professor Molly Dragiewicz** from **Queensland University of Technology**, course coordinator for the **Graduate Certificate in Domestic Violence**. A number of QPS Domestic and Family Violence Coordinators are undertaking this course as part of the QPS commitment to enhance capacity of Domestic and Family Violence Coordinators. Associate Professor Dragiewicz noted that **understanding dynamics and factors** which contribute to domestic and family violence is an important contributor to improved policing and service responses.

The Commissioner of Police concluded by **emphasising the commitment of QPS** to implementing *Not Now, Not Ever* report recommendations and effecting cultural change within the QPS. It was noted **further work was required to continue the journey of reform**, by embedding sustainable and long-term change within the QPS and community.

In addition to discussion in relation to policing responses to domestic and family violence, Council received update on other matters relating to Council's responsibilities.

Activities of the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group**, which has been established to advise Council on implementation activities relevant to Indigenous Queenslanders, were reported. The Advisory Group has met with representatives of the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services in relation to the development of **integrated response pilots (recommendations 9 and 74)** and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General in relation to development of the **local authority model for discrete Indigenous communities (recommendation 92)**.

Finally, representatives of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet briefed Council on the **engagement and communication strategy** being developed in response to **recommendation 18**. This strategy will employ a long-term approach to achieving **societal and attitudinal change** to issues contributing to domestic and family violence, within the context of the **ten-year vision of the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy**.