



MEETING COMMUNIQUÉ

Wednesday, 20 November 2017
Brisbane

On Wednesday, **20 November 2017**, the Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council held its final meeting for the year. The Council acknowledged the contribution of **Lachlan Heywood** who had completed his appointment to the Council due to relocation interstate.

The Council's **local engagement work group** reported on a recent meeting that had been held with representatives from the **Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ)**, including **Councillor Karen Williams, Mayor of Redland City**, to discuss opportunities for local governments to promote action to address domestic and family violence. The high level of engagement demonstrated by LGAQ representatives in relation to domestic and family violence was noted by Council members, with the major challenge for the future being the differing levels in awareness of and capacity to take action in relation to domestic and family violence in the local government sector across the state.

The Council received updates on the Queensland Government's implementation of the recommendations of the *Not Now, Not Ever* report. It was noted that **78 of the 121 recommendations** for which the Queensland Government is responsible have now been completed, and the remaining 43 recommendations have been commenced.

The **upcoming launch of the National Domestic Violence Order Scheme** on 25 November 2017 was noted as a significant achievement for domestic and family violence reform and a step forward that would assist the courts, the police and people impacted by domestic and family violence both in Queensland and around the country.

Members reported on the **launch of the Queensland Government's Media Guide** on 27 October 2017 at the Women in Media conference on the Gold Coast. The Media Guide is a resource designed to provide support and guidance to journalists and other media professionals on sensitive reporting of domestic and family violence issues and incidents. It was developed in response to **recommendation 70** of the *Not Now, Not Ever* report and is available at www.qld.gov.au/DFVmediaguide.

The **launch of the Specialist Domestic and Family Violence Court in Townsville** on 21 November, and its circuit locations of **Palm Island** and **Mount Isa**, was also noted as a significant achievement in support of the implementation of *Not Now, Not Ever* recommendations.

The Council also received updates in relation to **evaluations being undertaken under the reform program**, and work of the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services to support responses for **people with disability impacted by domestic and family violence**.

The Council considered the **Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board's annual report for 2016-17**. The report sets out findings and 21 recommendations arising from the systemic review of 27 cases (involving 29 deaths) that the Board examined in its first year of operation. The Council noted key themes identified in the report, which include the need to **strengthen support systems** and **work collaboratively** to support people affected by domestic and family violence.

The Council also undertook planning for its annual report for the period ending 30 November 2017, and identified key issues for consideration into the future.