

Terms of Reference

Review of the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009*

Background

The *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009* (the Act) establishes the financial assistance scheme to assist victims of crime recover from acts of violence. The Act also outlines the fundamental principles of justice to underlie the treatment of victims and provides a mechanism for implementing the principles and for making complaints about behaviour inconsistent with the principles.

Section 144 of the Act provides that the Minister must review the Act within five years after the commencement to decide whether the Act's provisions remain appropriate and that the Minister must, as soon as practicable after finishing the review, table a report about its outcome in the Legislative Assembly.

The review of the Act is will be undertaken by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

Scope

The review of the Act will consider:

1. The effectiveness of the financial assistance scheme:
 - whether it achieves its goal to assist victims to recover from acts of violence;
 - whether the levels of financial assistance provided are appropriate and sustainable; and
 - the interaction between the financial scheme and other compensation schemes to determine which scheme is best placed to assist the victim.
2. The effectiveness of the State in recovering grants of assistance from convicted offenders and consideration of alternate models.
3. Whether the fundamental principles of justice for victims of crime been implemented across relevant government agencies and their appropriateness to advance the interests of victims.
4. The legislated role of Victim Services Coordinator and whether its functions are appropriate, effective and advance the interests of victims of crime and the services provided to them.
5. In addition, the review will support the Queensland Government's commitment to better services for Queenslanders and so will also identify any commercial opportunities, areas to improve partnerships with non-government and private organisations and opportunities to reduce the regulatory burden on business and the community.

Governance arrangements

The review will be supported by an expert advisory group.