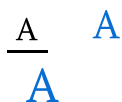


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POLITICS QUEENSLAND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Queensland rules out domestic violence disclosure scheme

By Felicity Caldwell
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- 1 People at risk of domestic violence will continue to be barred from finding out about their partner's prior criminal convictions.

Attorney-General Yvette D'Ath asked the Queensland Law Reform Commission to investigate whether Queensland should introduce a domestic violence disclosure scheme.

Talking Points

- The Queensland Law Reform Commission recommended a domestic violence disclosure scheme not be created.
- There was concern the scheme could lead to a false sense of security.
- The Commission argued resources would be better used by support services.



A domestic violence disclosure scheme will not be created, following a recommendation from the Queensland Law Reform Commission.

The schemes, which operate in England and Wales and under a pilot in New South Wales, allow people at risk to find out if their current or former partner has a history of domestic or other violence.

Generally, a person's criminal or domestic violence history will not be disclosed, including to a person at risk, by Queensland police or government agencies.

Following a review, the QLRC recommended Queensland not introduce a domestic violence disclosure scheme.

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It said it was not persuaded the allocation of substantial funding and other resources would be justified.

"It considers that funds and other resources would be better directed to front line services and continued implementation of the current reforms to address domestic and family violence," the Commission wrote in its report.

"The dynamics of domestic and family violence mean that there are many barriers to leaving an abusive relationship and reasons why a person may stay in such a relationship," it wrote.

The Commission said the usefulness of the scheme might be limited by the fact domestic violence was under-reported, so there may not be any complaint, domestic violence order conviction or other information to disclose, which could lead to a false sense of safety.

The Commission said some might treat the scheme as shifting responsibility for the actions of the perpetrator to the person at risk, victim-blaming them for not taking action to ensure their own safety.

Ms D'Ath told Fairfax Media tackling domestic violence was a priority for the government, which was why it asked the Commission to investigate, despite the [Not Now, Not Ever](#) report not recommending the scheme.

"The report, tabled in Parliament (on Wednesday), concluded that the potential risks and disadvantages of such a scheme - including giving victims a false sense of security - outweighed any possible benefits," she said.

"As such, the government will not proceed with a domestic violence disclosure scheme.

"Instead, we will continue to provide record funding to tackle domestic and family violence, and support measures that reduce the risk of violence, strengthen victim protection and hold perpetrators to account."

Women's Legal Service Queensland chief executive Angela Lynch said the service supported the QLRC's recommendation.

"We have women unable to get adequate refuge accommodation escaping violence and adequate housing, legal support," she said.

"So the issue of resourcing is particularly pertinent."

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