



Zonta International District 22

Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

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Hon. Jack Dempsey
Minister for Police and Community Safety
P.O. Box 935
Bundaberg Qld. 4670

Dear Minister Dempsey,

RE: REPORT ON OUTCOMES OF DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE STRATEGY

I am writing as District Governor of District 22 of Zonta International, an international service organisation which has a primary focus of improving the legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status of women (see www.zonta.org).

Zonta is currently the only international women's organisation which focuses solely on status of women issues in accordance with CEDAW (the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women). As such, our members believe firmly in strengthening laws to prevent discrimination against women and the girl child and in advocating for support to enhance the position of women so that they can contribute to their full potential.

At our recent District Conference we passed a number of Resolutions, one of which addresses your portfolio area of Police, specifically the Domestic and Family Violence Strategy 2009-13.

The resolution was: "We request that the Queensland Police Service report on the outcomes of their Domestic and Family Violence Strategy 2009-2013 with respect to its effectiveness in helping women to exit such violence".

RATIONALE:

- The Domestic and Family Violence Strategy 2009-2013 acknowledged that addressing D&FV is a strategic priority for the Queensland Police Service;
- The Strategy was developed ensuring consistency with the former Government's "For our sons and daughters" Strategy to reduce domestic and family violence 2009-2014 and the Australasian Policing Strategy 2008;
- The objectives of the Strategy are to improve service delivery and client support through enhanced inter-agency collaboration, communication, information sharing and case management and early intervention in the "cycle of violence", victim support, preventing recidivism, and repeat calls for service;
- The Strategy lists ten core focus areas e.g. education and training, research and knowledge base, incident response, policy and legal response, early intervention, communication and information sharing, diverse and emerging communities, indigenous family violence, children at risk and people affected by D&FV violence.

A report on the outcomes of the Domestic and Family Violence Strategy 2009-2013 would assist Zonta's District 22 to formulate resolutions to be put forward to the State Government in submissions prior to the next State budget.

It would be appreciated if your department could report on the outcomes of this Strategy in terms of assisting women to 'break the cycle of violence/ exit a violent situation'. In particular, we would be interested in your report against the stated core focus areas on your website (items 1-10) and any statistical analysis done on the indicators of success. (www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/cscp/dv/dvfvStrg0913.htm).

For the past year, Zonta International has been conducting a world-wide anti-violence campaign – 'Zonta says NO' (see www.zontasaysno.com.au and <http://zontasaysno.com/>). We support local and international

programs with funding and in-kind assistance, and most Zonta clubs in this District support a women's DV refuge.

It is important that we all work together to reduce, where possible, the incidence of violence and to increase the successful response to such crises. The observations from your Strategy will assist us to do that.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Judith Anderson", is written over a rectangular area with a stippled or textured background.

JUDITH ANDERSON
District Governor, District 22

8/1/14

cc. Hon. Tracy Davis, Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services



Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

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District 22 Governor
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Dear Ms Anderson

Thank you for your letter of 8 January 2014, regarding the outcomes of the Queensland Police Service (QPS) Domestic and Family Violence Strategy 2009-2013 (the Strategy).

In addressing the core focus area of *Policy and Legal Response* under the Strategy, the QPS:

- Actively engaged with stakeholders responsible for the administration of domestic violence (DV) legislation in Queensland to review the system's legal response to DV; and
- Participated in more than 18 months of internal, interdepartmental and community consultation and review in 2010-11, which culminated in the introduction of the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012* (the Act), replacing the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 1989*. The main objects of the Act are to maximise the safety, protection and wellbeing of people who fear or experience DV; minimise disruption to their lives, especially for children; and to ensure those who commit DV are held accountable for their actions.

With regard to the core focus areas of *Improving Police Response* and *Incident Response* under the Strategy, the QPS:

- Reviewed policy, procedural and data collection processes to ensure the actions of frontline officers are consistent with the aims of the legislation;
- Introduced a risk assessment framework for incidents of DV, including a major research undertaking in partnership with the Australian Institute of Criminology and the formulation of a risk assessment framework for frontline officers; and
- Developed the Domestic and Family Violence Coordinators Network across the State. Coordinators deliver education and training to operational police, engage in problem solving with other government and non-government agencies, are instrumental in formulating and implementing reactive, proactive and preventative strategies and provide advice and assistance to members of the community.

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The core focus areas of *Education and Training* and *Research and Knowledge Base* under the Strategy saw the QPS:

- Train 10,500 sworn officers and selected staff members in legislation, contemporary conceptual understanding of DV and the risk assessment framework;
- Participate in the establishment of the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Unit of the State Coroner's Office and work closely with this Unit to develop processes for review and collaboration; and
- Engage with research entities, providing advice and assistance, including in regard to Griffith University's review of police attitudes towards DV.

Finally, in addressing the core focus areas of *Early Intervention, Communication and Information Sharing* and *Protection and Support*, the QPS:

- Contributed to the trial of a number of service delivery models in various regional areas in partnership with government and non-government agencies, including the *Breaking the Cycle* trial in Rockhampton. This project was led by Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services and aimed to reduce the risk of ongoing harm through integrating human service and justice systems for victims of DV;
- Worked collaboratively with discrete Indigenous communities to build capacity within men's groups to address DV;
- Established procedures for electronic management of referrals of involved parties at DV incidents; and
- Contributed to the work and research program of the Elder Abuse Prevention Unit.

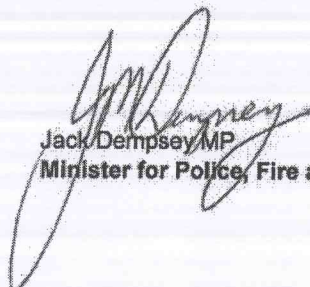
The QPS continues to work in partnership with government and non-government agencies to reduce the incidence of DV, encouraging reporting of DV to police, improved service delivery and outcomes for those affected by DV in our community, and to hold perpetrators accountable. Of note the QPS has observed an increase in reporting to police since the strategy was released.

Please pass on my personal thanks to the members of your Zonta International District for their continuing commitment to improving the safety and protection of women in Queensland.

Should you require further information in regard to the work of the QPS to prevent the incidence of DV, Senior Sergeant Leonie Fordyce, Senior Strategy Officer, Policy Branch, Public Safety Business Agency is available on telephone (07) 3364 3685.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Jack Dempsey MP
Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services