

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

**Program: 1.7**

**Question No. AE16/071**

**Senator Collins asked the following question at the hearing on 9 February 2016:**

1. Can you advise the progress of the National Domestic Violence Order Information Sharing System (NDVOISS) being developed by CrimTrac?
2. Will the merging of the Australian Crime Commission and CrimTrac have any effect on this program?
3. With respect to the national DVO information sharing system, what progress has been made on the interim technical solution as discussed at the 5 November 2015 Law, Crime and Community Safety Council?
4. Will the Government release, before its consideration by COAG, the model legislation to underpin a National Domestic Violence Order Scheme, which was endorsed at the 5 November 2015 Law, Crime and Community Safety Council?
5. On 5 November the Law, Crime and Community Safety Council agreed the recommendations developed by the National Cybercrime Working Group on possible areas of action to address technology-facilitated abuse should be presented to the Council of Australian Governments next meeting. What were those recommendations, and were they presented to the COAG meeting on 11 December?
6. Up to \$15 million has been allocated to enable police in Qld to better respond to domestic violence in remote communities and for measures that reduce reoffending by Indigenous perpetrators. Can the Minister provide details as to how this is being spent and on what programs?
7. \$17 million is allocated to keep women safe in their homes by expanding successful initiatives like the Safer in the Home programme to install CCTV cameras and other safety equipment, and a grant to the Salvation Army to work with security experts to conduct risk assessments on victim's homes, help change their locks and scan for bugs. How is this money being allocated?
8. \$5 million has been allocated for safer technology, including working with telecommunications companies to distribute safe phones to women, and with the eSafety Commissioner to develop a resource package about online safety for women, including for women from CALD communities. How will this project be administered?
9. Can you advise of the progress made to date in developing the family violence bench book? Have ANROWS or another organisation with family and domestic violence expertise been involved in its production?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

**1. Can you advise the progress of the National Domestic Violence Order Information Sharing System (NDVOISS) being developed by CrimTrac?**

In accordance with the decision of the Council of Australian Governments on 11 December 2015, CrimTrac has ceased work on the trial information sharing system for domestic violence orders (DVOs) with New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania.

Work has been redirected to deliver two separate projects – a comprehensive national system that will facilitate information sharing and enforcement of DVOs, noting this will take several

years to fully implement; and an interim information sharing system for DVOs to support the sharing of information until the national system has been implemented.

**2. Will the merging of the Australian Crime Commission and CrimTrac have any effect on this program?**

No.

**3. With respect to the national DVO information sharing system, what progress has been made on the interim technical solution as discussed at the 5 November 2015 Law, Crime and Community Safety Council?**

Work is progressing on the interim system in accordance with the decisions of the Law, Crime and Community Safety Council and the Council of Australian Governments.

**4. Will the Government release, before its consideration by COAG, the model legislation to underpin a National Domestic Violence Order Scheme, which was endorsed at the 5 November 2015 Law, Crime and Community Safety Council?**

The model legislation to underpin the National Domestic Violence Order Scheme (endorsed at the 5 November 2015 LCCSC) was considered and agreed at the 11 December 2015 COAG meeting. At this meeting all jurisdictions committed to introducing model laws in the first half of 2016.

**5. On 5 November the Law, Crime and Community Safety Council agreed the recommendations developed by the National Cybercrime Working Group on possible areas of action to address technology-facilitated abuse should be presented to the Council of Australian Governments next meeting. What were those recommendations, and were they presented to the COAG meeting on 11 December?**

The recommendations of the National Cybercrime Working Group on technology-facilitated abuse were presented to COAG by LCCSC on 11 December 2015. COAG has not made the recommendations public and to do so is a matter for COAG.

**6. Up to \$15 million has been allocated to enable police in Qld to better respond to domestic violence in remote communities and for measures that reduce reoffending by Indigenous perpetrators. Can the Minister provide details as to how this is being spent and on what programs?**

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is currently in negotiations with the Queensland Government for the provision of up to \$2.5 million to support Queensland police to better respond to domestic violence in remote communities.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is negotiating with four existing providers to expand their prisoner throughcare activities to help perpetrators of domestic violence change their behaviour, totalling \$12.5 million.

**7. \$17 million is allocated to keep women safe in their homes by expanding successful initiatives like the Safer in the Home programme to install CCTV cameras and other safety equipment, and a grant to the Salvation Army to work with security experts to conduct risk assessments on victim's homes, help change their locks and scan for bugs. How is this money being allocated?**

The Department of Social Services is working with all state and territory governments and the Salvation Army on the implementation of this measure. The allocation of funding has not been finalised.

**8. \$5 million has been allocated for safer technology, including working with telecommunications companies to distribute safe phones to women, and with the eSafety Commissioner to develop a resource package about online safety for women, including for women from CALD communities. How will this project be administered?**

The Department of Social Services has been working with telecommunications companies and women's services to identify options for the distribution of safe phones for women. Matters relating to the administration and funding of this work have not been finalised.

The Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner (the Office), which sits within the Communications portfolio, has been allocated \$2.1 million over three years to develop a resource package about online safety for women. The focus of the resource package is building a website on technology safety for women to empower women, particularly women at risk of domestic or family violence, to positively manage online issues.

While the Office has been given funding over three years to develop the resource package, the Office is committed to delivering elements of the package in stages so that women (and the frontline professionals to whom they turn for help) benefit from early access to resources. The initial launch of the website will include a range of innovative resources to raise awareness of technology-facilitated abuse and the steps to address it. The Office is also rolling out face-to-face training of frontline professionals to raise awareness of technology-facilitated abuse and the website.

**9. Can you advise of the progress made to date in developing the family violence bench book? Have ANROWS or another organisation with family and domestic violence expertise been involved in its production?**

The Family Violence Bench Book is being developed by the Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration and the TC Beirne School of Law at the University of Queensland. Work on the Bench Book commenced in June 2015 and the first part of the Bench Book is scheduled for release in June 2016, with the final part to be made available in June 2017.

ANROWS is part of the expert advisory group, which includes judges, legal practitioners and academics that is providing input on the content of the Bench Book.