

Our reference: A/05/07720
CMM03137

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Legislative Assembly of Queensland
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 8 June 2005, forwarding a copy of a petition tabled in Parliament on 7 June 2005 concerning a proposal to establish a Domestic Violence Death Review Board.

Domestic and family violence has a devastating effect on individuals and communities. I share the concerns of the petitioners over the rate of homicides as a result of domestic and family violence and I am saddened at the loss of life.

I have asked the Director-General of the Department of Communities, Ms Linda Apelt, to discuss this matter with the Commissioner of Police.

The Queensland Government takes the prevention of domestic and family violence very seriously and has recently announced an additional budget commitment of \$3.75M over four years for intervention services for male perpetrators of domestic and family violence.

The Department of Communities already provides \$15M annually for services that support people affected by domestic and family violence. These services include court support, counselling services, regional domestic violence services, child witness counselling services, police referral services (known as 'fax-back'), a research, education and evaluation service, telephone counselling and referral and other related activities. However, I am committed to looking at ways to improve responses to people affected by domestic and family violence in Queensland.

The Government also provides \$12.4M for 53 accommodation services to assist women and children escaping violent relationships under the Supported Accommodation and Assistance Program (SAAP).

If you require any further information or assistance in relation to this matter, please contact Ms Natalie Siegel, Manager, Violence Prevention Team, Department of Communities on 3224 4853.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Warren Pitt MP
Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors