1. The *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009* (VOCA Act) commenced in December 2009. The purposes of the Act are to declare the fundamental principles of justice to underlie the treatment of victims; implement the principles of justice and set out processes to make complaints about conduct inconsistent with the principles; and establish a financial assistance scheme for victims who have suffered from an act of violence.
2. A review of the VOCA Act to consider the appropriateness of the provisions of the Act was completed in December 2015.
3. The Final Report for the review of the VOCA Act found that the financial assistance scheme works well and plays an important role in assisting victims of violent crime to recover from acts of violence. The review identified some improvements to ensure the VOCA Act continues to provide an effective response to assist victims of crime.
4. The Final Report contains 15 recommendations that will:
* make the application for financial assistance process easier for victims;
* enhance the rights of victims and how they are treated;
* simplify the amounts of financial assistance paid to victims, including an increase to the maximum payments for some categories of financial assistance;
* expand the scope of the financial assistance scheme to ensure all victims of domestic and family violence, including elder abuse, are able to access assistance;
* improve the decision making process by allowing Victim Assist Queensland greater flexibility and access to information; as well as imposing certain requirements on applicants when other financial assistance may be available;
* expand the role of the Victim Services Coordinator to help victims resolve complaints; and
* limit when actions for the recovery of financial assistance from an offender may be initiated to six years to ensure timely debt recovery action.
1. Cabinet endorsed the acceptance of all 15 recommendations made in the Final Report on the review of the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009*.
2. Cabinet approved the tabling of the Final Report on the review of the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009* in the Legislative Assembly.
3. *Attachment*
* [Final Report on the review of the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009*](Attachments/Report.PDF)