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MEDIA RELEASE

Implementation of prison reforms would support DV victims

Four years after they were released, only 55% of the recommendations of the Sofronoff review of Queensland's Parole System have been fully implemented, leaving victims of domestic violence and others asking for the reasons for the delays.

Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Dale Last, said many of the recommendations would have a large impact on the wider community but that domestic violence victims, in particular, had been let down.

"Justice Sofronoff was particularly scathing when it came ensuring information was provided to victims of domestic violence," Mr Last said. "Four years later and the need to keep victims informed has not been fully addressed."

"What we were seeing back in 2016, and we are still seeing today, is that victims believe they are safe due to a perpetrator being in custody when that may not be the case."

"That is a very concerning circumstance and, frankly, it's something that could be addressed quickly and easily."

Mr Last said the Estimates process had highlighted the need for further work on implementing recommendations.

"Obviously there are some recommendations that will take time to implement," Mr Last said. "But, to have nearly half of the recommendations not implemented over four years later indicates a lack of priority to say the least."

"By implementing this recommendation, the government would be ensuring that victims would have time to apply for a Domestic Violence Order (DVO) if necessary and it would also ensure that Queensland Police were aware of the release. While the DVO system is far from perfect, that system and the work of Police would be a realistic step in ensuring victims of domestic violence are as safe as possible."

"The government needs to reiterate its commitment to implementing that recommendation and they must provide a deadline for that implementation. To let this drag on is disrespectful of victims and does nothing to reduce the scourge of domestic violence."

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Sources: <https://parolereview.premiers.qld.gov.au/assets/queensland-parole-system-review-final-report.pdf> Pages 240-242

https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/hansard/2020/2020_12_14_EstimatesLAC.pdf Page 65