

A REPORT ON GIVING EFFECT TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE INVESTIGATION INTO ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDERS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITIES

The Western Australian Ombudsman has today tabled in Parliament a report on giving effect to recommendations arising from the *Investigation into issues associated with violence restraining orders and their relationship with family and domestic violence fatalities*.

1. Background

“As Western Australian Ombudsman, I undertake an important responsibility to review family and domestic violence fatalities. Arising from this work, I identified the need to undertake a major own motion investigation into issues associated with violence restraining orders (VROs) and their relationship with family and domestic violence fatalities,” said Western Australian Ombudsman, Mr. Chris Field.

“On 19 November 2015, I tabled the *Investigation into issues associated with violence restraining orders and their relationship with family and domestic violence fatalities* in the Western Australian Parliament. Through that investigation, I found that a range of work had been undertaken by state government departments and authorities to administer their relevant legislative responsibilities, including their responsibilities arising from the *Restraining Orders Act 1997*. I also found, however, that there is important further work that should be done,” said Mr. Field.

“Arising from my findings in the FDV Investigation Report, I made 54 recommendations to four government agencies about ways to prevent or reduce family and domestic violence fatalities. Each agency agreed to these recommendations. Importantly, I also indicated that my office would actively monitor the implementation of these recommendations and report to Parliament on the results of this monitoring. Accordingly, I am now pleased to provide Parliament with ‘A report on giving effect to the recommendations arising from the *Investigation into issues associated with violence restraining orders and their relationship with family and domestic violence fatalities*’,” said Mr. Field.

2. Methodology

“My Office sought from the relevant state government departments and authorities a report on the steps taken to give effect to the recommendations. Where further information, clarification or validation was required, my Office met with relevant state government departments and authorities. For a number of recommendations, my Office conducted fieldwork, to collect further information regarding the steps taken to give effect to the recommendations,” said Mr Field.

3. Summary of findings

“I am pleased that in relation to all of the recommendations, the relevant state government departments and authorities have either taken steps, or propose to take steps (or, in some cases, both) to give effect to the recommendations. In no instance has the office found that no steps have been taken, or are proposed to be taken, to give effect to the recommendations,” said Mr. Field.

“It is particularly pleasing that, in giving effect to the recommendations, important improvements have been achieved when compared to the findings identified in the *Investigation into issues associated with violence restraining orders and their relationship with family and domestic violence fatalities*,” said Mr. Field.

4. Concluding observations

“This report sets out the steps taken, or proposed to be taken, to give effect to the recommendations arising from the FDV Investigation Report, however, the work of my office in ensuring that the recommendations of the investigation are given effect does not end with the tabling of this report,” said Mr. Field.

“My office will continue to monitor, and report on, whether steps continue to be taken to give effect to the recommendations arising from the FDV Investigation Report. The next such report will be provided in my office’s 2016-17 Annual Report,” said Mr. Field.

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The report titled ‘A report on giving effect to the recommendations arising from the *Investigation into Issues Associated with Violence Restraining Orders and Their Relationship with Family and Domestic Violence Fatalities*’ is available from the Ombudsman’s website at www.ombudsman.wa.gov.au/familydomesticviolencereport.