

The QPU Make DFV a Crime Campaign

Why the QPU?

As police, we are sworn to protect life and property. It is our number one priority. DFV victims are some of the most vulnerable in our society and DFV incidents are rising at unprecedented levels.

Despite the fact the LNP Government has committed to DFV Reforms any meaningful change for the role of police in the DFV 'system' has historically been difficult.

Before deciding on a campaign, the QPU undertook extensive consultation with members, actual victim survivors and the DFV sector. The QPU has been open and transparent about the campaign and drafts of the Blueprint for Action have been provided to a multitude of stakeholders. Unfortunately, this has resulted in some critics of police responses to domestic and family violence mobilising to prevent QPU (and QPS) attempts to make your job of protecting victims more streamlined and effective.

The criticism beginning to emerge can be summarised as follows:

- police can't be trusted to correctly identify the person most in need of protection;
- a standalone offence and police protection directions reinforce an incident based policing approach whereas police need to do more to ensure responses identify patterns of behaviour (e.g. coercive control); and
- despite the apparent lack of trust in policing responses held by some critics they still expect police to keep turning up to the more than 200,000 projected occurrences annually without making any efficiency adjustments to a system that is detrimental to both victims and responders.

This type of criticism from some stakeholders shows we can take nothing for granted when the Government states it is committed to reforming DFV. As much as the QPU appreciates and welcomes the Government's commitment, we will need to fight tooth and nail to bring about any real improvements for frontline policing.

This is the reason the QPU launched its campaign. The voices of our frontline members **must be heard and listened to.**

Katarina Carroll tried throughout her Commissionership to effect positive changes for the frontline but was blocked at every turn. Commissioner Gollschewski is equally focussed on positive reform but faces the same resistance.

The current DFV system is letting down victims and is affecting our workforce on so many fronts (recruitment, retention, vicarious trauma and impacts on well-being, job satisfaction etc.) and it is vital your Union does all it can to usher in the change so often promised but never delivered.

This campaign also flows into other initiatives for QPU members. It creates a strong public presence for the QPU in terms of public support for police as we commence EB bargaining (our number one priority). The issues of attraction and retention of staff are significant and provide a basis for promoting the need for salary sacrificing and a blue “free health care” card for police with both parties in the upcoming Commonwealth election.

Members should rest assured this is only part of a series of strategies and policies the QPU is promoting to ensure better conditions and pay for QPU members.

Please sign the petition at: **[MakeDVaCrime.com.au](https://www.makedvacrime.com.au)**