

ROAD SAFETY COUNCIL AMENDMENT (FUNCTIONS) BILL 2010 (E173)

(Introduced by Hon Ms Quirk, MLA)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. Short Title

When the Parliament passes the Bill its title will be the *Road Safety Council Amendment (Functions) Act 2010*.

2. Commencement

Clauses 1 and 2 — are to come into effect on the day on which the Act receives Royal Assent and the remainder on a day fixed by proclamation

3. Act amended

This Bill amends the *Road Safety Council Act 2002*.

4. Section 5 amended

Section 5 of the *Road Safety Council Act 2002* is amended to expand the current restrictive interpretation as to what measures the Road Safety Council can recommend funding out of the Road Trauma Trust Fund. Currently these measures are restricted to improving safety on roads and those related to the reduction of death, injury and damage to property on roads.

Accordingly a road trauma victim counselling service is deemed to fall outside activities which can attract funding from the Fund. This amendment will allow the Council to recommend funding to a road trauma victim support service such as those which exist in other States. These services provide counselling, advice and related kinds of support to people injured as the result of road crashes as well as to members of the families of and others closely associated with, people killed or injured as the result of crashes and to emergency workers who attend those incidents as well as to those civilians first on the scene.

In other jurisdictions the work of victim support services extends to the court sanctioned education programs which raise public awareness of the consequences of road crashes where people are killed or seriously injured.

These amendments are required so as to remove any legislative impediment to the funding of such a service under the Road Trauma Trust Fund. It will also permit other bodies which currently provide education programs focused on the prevention of road trauma, but which receive little or no government funding, such as the Paraplegic Benefit Fund, to secure financial assistance through the Road Trauma Trust Fund.