

# LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING

### Department of Justice

#### Hon Nick Goiran MLC asked:

1) I refer to p. 436 of Budget Paper No.2, Volume 2 and the statement that "The Department has commenced the FDV GPS Tracking Trial which is a two-year trial to electronically monitor high risk FDV offenders in the community, designed to increase the safety for victims of FDV and the community", and I ask:

(a) When was this trial commenced;

Answer: 18 August 2020.

(b) How much has this trial cost to date;

Answer: \$594,000.

(c) Is this program based on a similar program used elsewhere;

Answer: Yes.

(d) If yes to c), where;

Answer: The WA trial has drawn on learnings from a number of jurisdictions including New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland and Tasmania.

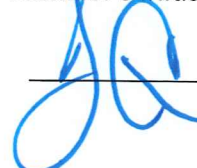
(e) If yes to c) what were the findings;

Answer: Individual jurisdictions have been separately evaluated, for example in April 2019 Queensland Police released *The Domestic and Family Violence GPS-Enabled Electronic Monitoring Technology Evaluation Report*.

A full evaluation report of the Tasmanian trial is due to be released by the end of 2020. Preliminary results include significant reductions in FDV assaults, threats, allegations of emotional abuse, reports of stalking, and an overall reduction in family violence incidents.

Of particular note, following the Queensland Government's response to *Not Now, Not Ever*, the report of the Queensland Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence (2015), the Department of Justice and Attorney-General commissioned Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) to carry out research on the effectiveness and best practice principles for electronic monitoring of domestic and family violence perpetrators.

Minister's initials



The WA trial is also informed by the resulting ANROWS report *Electronic Monitoring in the Context of Domestic and Family Violence*.

- (f) How is the GPS tracking designed to increase the safety for victims of FDV;  
Answer: Safety is increased in a range of ways. Firstly, safety is increased as the perpetrator is deterred from re-offending. Secondly, police have time to take action if the perpetrator is not deterred from reoffending. GPS exclusion zones are set up in areas where the offender is not permitted to be and the GPS device immediately alerts the Department of Justice, who are co-located with dedicated police officers, if the offender goes near, or enters, an exclusion zone.

In addition, a central feature of the WA trial is the requirement for perpetrators to participate in rehabilitation programs. This is consistent with the ANROWS finding that electronic monitoring cannot stand alone: to be effective in reducing recidivism and increasing victim/survivor safety it must be part of a broader program, which has flexibility to address criminogenic needs of individual perpetrators.

- (g) Are the victims alerted if the perpetrator comes into a designated area;  
Answer: Not automatically. Alert types and response protocols cannot be discussed due to security reasons.
- (h) How many sites are part of the trial; and  
Answer: The trial includes all Magistrates Courts in the metropolitan area.
- (i) What have been the findings of the trial to date?  
Answer: Noting the trial commenced on 18 August 2020, there are no findings as yet. However, a full evaluation will occur and the trial is subject to ongoing monitoring.

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