

VICTIMS OF CRIME AMENDMENT BILL 2003

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Overview

This Bill sanctions information sharing about victims of crime between the Commissioner for Police, the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Justice to facilitate the provision of services to victims of crime.

Clause Notes for amending Bill

Clause 1 Short Title

This clause provides for the Act to be cited as the *Victims of Crime Amendment Bill 2002*.

Clause 2 Commencement

This clause provides that the Act commences on assent.

Clause 3 The Act amended

This clause provides that the Act amends the *Victims of Crime Act 1994*.

Clause 4 Section 4 inserted

This clause inserts a new section relating to the provision of information about victims by the Western Australian Police Service and the Director of Public Prosecutions to the Department of Justice.

The new section:

- defines “Department” for the purposes of the Act as the department of the Public Service assisting the Minister in the administration of the *Victims of Crime Act 1994* (WA). Currently these are the Department of Justice and the Attorney General, respectively. “DPP” is defined as the Director of Public Prosecutions;
- sanctions information sharing between the Commissioner of Police Service and the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Justice to facilitate the provision of services to victims of crime;
- similarly sanctions information sharing between the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Justice to facilitate the provision of services to victims of crime;
- ensures the confidentiality of the information shared between the agencies;

- ensures that officers of the respective agencies who, as part of their duties, share information in confidence and in good faith under the provisions of this Act are not thereby in breach of any other law; and
- specifies that the information shared is for the purpose of providing services to victims and cannot be used for any other purpose.