

TREASURER TOM KOUTSANTONIS

Thursday, 7 July 2016

Creating a more efficient justice system

The Government is building on its commitment to reform South Australia's justice system by speeding up the court process, improving services in regional communities and removing a bureaucratic burden on victims of domestic violence.

The 2016-17 State Budget also includes funding to upgrade court facilities and develop strategies for future improvements.

Measures include:

- \$4.5m over four years for the efficient progression and resolution of major indictable matters in regional communities, helping to reduce the backlog in the District Court;
- \$1m to develop a strategic approach to future accommodation needs of court facilities in the CBD;
- \$1.3m to implement an IT system that will enable sharing of information, as part of the National Domestic Violence Order Scheme;
- \$1m to establish an office to address and co-ordinate the response to the recommendations of the Child Protection Systems Royal Commission.

Background

The Government is committed to reducing the time it takes for matters to come to trial.

Early resolution of major indictable matters will help to reduce the backlog in the District Court.

Having the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions assuming conduct of committal matters from SA Police will help to achieve this.

This will facilitate better justice outcomes for victims, witnesses and the broader community.

The National Domestic Violence Order Scheme increases protection for victims of domestic violence by ensuring domestic violence orders are automatically recognised and enforced across all Australian jurisdictions.



2016-17
STATE
BUDGET

This removes the burden on individuals having to register the order in different States and Territories.

This Budget also retains additional funding in contingency to respond to the final recommendations of Justice Nyland's Royal Commission into South Australia's child protection system.

Quotes attributable to Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis

The Government is constantly striving to make South Australia safer, that's why we are continuing to invest in reforms which improve our justice system.

We want to make sure court cases progress efficiently and that the needs of victims of crime come first. This Budget is another step forward in achieving that.

Quotes attributable to Attorney-General John Rau

The community expects a justice system which is fair, efficient and promotes public safety.

Victims and witnesses want cases resolved as swiftly as possible so they can get on with their lives.

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