1. In February 2015, the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence provided its report, *Not Now, Not Ever: Putting an End to Domestic Violence in Queensland* (the report) to the Honourable Annastacia Palaszczuk MP, Premier and Minister for the Arts. The report contains 140 recommendations on how the Government and the Queensland community can better address and reduce domestic and family violence.
2. In August 2015, the Queensland Government released its response to the report. All 121 Taskforce recommendations directed to Government were accepted, and the Queensland Government indicated support for the 19 recommendations directed to the non-Government sector.
3. A number of recommendations are aimed at ensuring that perpetrators of domestic and family violence are appropriately held to account for their offending. Recommendations 118 and 120 relate specifically to criminal law reform. These recommendations provide that the Queensland Government:
* introduce a circumstance of aggravation of domestic and family violence to be applied to all criminal offences (Recommendation 118); and
* consider the creation of a specific offence of strangulation (Recommendation 120).
1. Between 12 October 2015 and 20 November 2015, consultation with stakeholders was undertaken to find the best means of giving effect to these recommendations.
2. The Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2015 gives effect to Taskforce recommendations 118 and 120 by:
* amending section 9 of the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992* to make provision for domestic and family violence as an aggravating factor on sentence; and
* creating a new Criminal Code offence of choking, suffocation or strangulation in a domestic setting, punishable by a maximum period of seven years imprisonment.
1. The Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2015 also contains amendments to the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992* and *Youth Justice Act 1992* to ensure that a court can receive submissions from the prosecutor and defendant as to the appropriate sentence or sentence range that should be imposed.
2. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2015 into the Legislative Assembly.
3. *Attachments*
* [Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2015](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)