1. The report of the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland - *Not Now, Not Ever: Putting an End to Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland* (the Taskforce Report) recommended establishing specialist domestic and family violence (DFV) courts. The relevant recommendations of the Taskforce Report (Recommendations 96, 97 and 100) propose establishing specialist courts to deal with DFV civil and criminal matters; and using specialist circuit magistrates in rural and remote areas where a specialist court is not feasible.
2. In its response to the Taskforce Report, the Queensland Government commenced trialling a specialist DFV court in Southport (the Southport DFV court) and committed to evaluating the court response to inform future rollout across Queensland. The trial of the Southport DFV court commenced in September 2015 and concluded in June 2017.
3. The Southport DFV court is an integrated approach, with dedicated DFV magistrates, a DFV court registry, support for parties in both civil and criminal court proceedings, including specialist DFV prosecutors, duty lawyers, court support workers and access to perpetrator programs.
4. Griffith Criminology Institute evaluated the Southport DFV court and prepared a report and summary report titled *Evaluation of the Specialist Domestic and Family Violence Court Trial in Southport – Final Report* (the evaluation report). The evaluation found strongly positive assessments of the Southport DFV court both from stakeholders as well as those who use the courts. The evaluation found the court had largely achieved its short and medium term objectives and it was too early to evaluate the long term objectives.
5. The evaluation report contains 16 recommendations, including a recommendation to continue the Southport DFV court as a hub of innovation, and a tiered approach to justice responses to DFV throughout the State: in high volume locations, adopt the Southport model; in other urban/regional locations implement a civil application list and/or a sentencing list with wrap-around services at court; and in rural and remote locations, consider the use of technology for access to courts.
6. Cabinet noted the recommendations of the Evaluation of the Specialist Domestic and Family Violence Court Trial in Southport – Final Report (the evaluation report).
7. Cabinet approved the public release of the evaluation report.
8. *Attachments*
* [*Evaluation of the Specialist Domestic and Family Violence Court Trial in Southport – Summary and Final Report* (March 2017), Griffith Criminology Institute.](Attachments/Report.PDF)