1. The Bill implements amendments identified in an operational review of the Coroners Act which, when it came into force in 2003, established a new coronial regime focussed on finding the truth of what occurred in order to prevent deaths from similar causes happening in the future. The review was conducted by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.
2. The proposed amendments are primarily procedural and technical in nature and do not involve a shift in the fundamental policy underpinning the legislation or require additional resources.
3. The initiation of the review was unrelated to the *Report of the Queensland Public Hospitals Commission of Inquiry* (the Davies Report) of November 2005. However, the Bill does address one issue raised in the Davies Report, relating to the operation of the current provisions requiring the reporting of deaths that are “*not reasonably expected to be the outcome of a health procedure”.* The Davies Report did not make a recommendation for amendment of this specific provision but highlighted ambiguities in its language. The Bill contains amendments to address this.
4. Other amendments include:
* amendment of the definition of “death in care” in relation to children in care to ensure it applies to all “out of home” placements;
* amendment of the “death in custody” definition to ensure all deaths in detention under all State and Commonwealth legislation are captured;
* establishment of a new category of reportable death “*deaths which occur in the course of, or as a result of, police operations*” which must be reported to the State Coroner or Deputy State Coroner;
* implementation of a model “aid to coroner” provision agreed to by the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General to facilitate cross-jurisdictional assistance;
* provision for review of decisions as to whether a death is reportable and clarification of coroners’ powers in the preliminary investigation period; and
* amendments to clarify and improve investigation and pre-inquest conference processes and to facilitate reopening of investigations and inquest.
1. The Bill includes amendments to the *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003* to implement a recommendation of the State Coroner to require the Registrar-General to amend the death register to reflect a coroner’s findings as to cause of death.
2. Cabinet approved that the Coroners and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2008 be introduced into the Legislative Assembly.
3. *Attachments*
* [Coroners and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2008](attachments/Coroners%20and%20Other%20Acts%20Amendment%20Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](attachments/Coroners%20and%20Other%20Acts%20Amendment%20Bill%20EXPNOTES.pdf)