1. On 28 September 2023, the Queensland Government announced a significant reform package to better support victims of crime and their families.
2. The Victims of Crime Assistance and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 (Bill) seeks to implement the announced reforms to increase the amount of financial support available to victims of crime and their families by amending the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009* to:

* increase the maximum limits of financial support that can be claimed by victims of crime under the financial assistance scheme, such as the limit for:
  1. primary victims of crime from $75,000 to $120,000
  2. distress payments from $10,000 to $15,000
  3. funeral expenses from $8,000 to $15,000
* increase the amount for each category of special assistance payment under the financial assistance scheme, as follows:
  1. Category A from $10,000 to $15,000
  2. Category B from $3,500 to $9,000
  3. Category C from $2,000 to $6,000
  4. Category D from $1,000 to $3,000

1. In addition, the Bill will increase the maximum limits for other victims, in particular for:

* parent secondary victims - from $50,000 to $75,000;
* witness secondary victims for more serious acts of violence - from $50,000 to $75,000;
* witness secondary victims for less serious acts of violence - from $10,000 to $20,000;
* for related victims – from $50,000 to $75,000.

1. The Bill also re-categorises acts of domestic and family violence from being a category D act of violence to a category B act of violence, to enable victims of acts of domestic violence to receive a special assistance payment of $9,000.
2. On 12 September 2023, the Attorney-General also announced that the Queensland Government had committed to ensuring victims representation on the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council (QSAC). To achieve this commitment, the Bill amends the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992* to increase the membership of QSAC from 12 to 14 members. This will enable the appointment of a member with lived experience as a victim of crime and another person appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Attorney-General.
3. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Victims of Crime Assistance and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 into the Legislative Assembly.
4. *Attachments*:

* [Victims of Crime Assistance and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023](https://dpcqld.sharepoint.com/sites/DPC-CABINETSERVICES/Shared%20Documents/General/Proactive%20Release/ToBeProcessed/2023/Oct/VoCAssistAmendBill/Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](https://dpcqld.sharepoint.com/sites/DPC-CABINETSERVICES/Shared%20Documents/General/Proactive%20Release/ToBeProcessed/2023/Oct/VoCAssistAmendBill/Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)
* [Statement of Compatibility](https://dpcqld.sharepoint.com/sites/DPC-CABINETSERVICES/Shared%20Documents/General/Proactive%20Release/ToBeProcessed/2023/Oct/VoCAssistAmendBill/Attachments/SoC.PDF)