

# VICTIMS OF CRIME ASSISTANCE AMENDMENT BILL

## Statement of compatibility

Mr HULLS (Attorney-General) tabled following statement in accordance with Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act:

In accordance with section 28 of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act, I make this statement of compatibility with respect to the Victims of Crime Assistance Amendment Bill 2007.

In my opinion, the Victims of Crime Assistance Amendment Bill 2007, as introduced in the Legislative Assembly, is compatible with the human rights protected by the charter. I base my opinion on the reasons outlined in this statement.

### Overview of the bill

The bill seeks to amend the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996 (the act) by increasing the amount of special financial assistance that may be awarded to victims of crime under the act. The underlying purpose of the bill is to improve responses to victims of crime.

The act authorises the Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal (VOCAT) to pay certain victims of crime financial assistance, including special financial assistance if VOCAT is satisfied that an act of violence was committed against a person and the person has experienced or suffered a significant adverse effect as a direct result of that act of violence.

Section 8A(5) provides a table which sets out the minimum and maximum amounts of special financial assistance that VOCAT may award for each of four categories of act of violence (A to D). The bill increases the minimum and maximum amounts prescribed in the table for each category.

### Human rights issues

#### 1. Human rights protected by the charter that are relevant to the bill

The provisions of the bill do not affect any human rights protected by the charter.

#### 2. Consideration of reasonable limitations -- section 7(2)

The provisions of the bill do not impose any limitations on human rights protected by the charter.

## Conclusion

I consider that the bill is compatible with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities because it does not limit, restrict or interfere with any human rights protected by the charter.

ROB HULLS, MP