

## **Barton Deakin Brief: Queensland Opposition's 'Clare's Law' Consultation Paper**

**22 June 2015**

Queensland's Opposition Leader, Lawrence Springborg MP and the Shadow Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, Tracy Davis MP have released a [consultation paper](#) and on a proposed domestic violence preventative disclosure scheme.

The proposed scheme would be modelled on the United Kingdom's *Clare's Law*, which is currently being trialled by the New South Wales Government.

### **Overview of *Claire's Law***

The UK's Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS), known as *Claire's Law*, gives members of the public a formal mechanism to enquire about the domestic violence convictions and crimes of any individual who they are in a relationship with, or who is in a relationship with someone they know.

The law allows two types of disclosure:

- Right to Ask – This is open to anyone who has a concern about their partner (or a friend or relative's partner). It allows an individual to request information from a government agency;
- Right to Know – This disclosure scheme gives police the right to proactively disclose information to a person relating to previous domestic violence or sexual offence convictions of their partner, even when the person has not requested the information.

### **Consultation paper**

The Queensland Opposition has released a consultation paper to canvas feedback on their proposal to introduce domestic violence disclosure legislation similar to *Clare's Law*. The paper coincides with an Exposure Draft Bill, which the LNP introduced into Queensland Parliament on 21 May.

The consultation paper seeks feedback on:

- Whether a Right to Ask and/or Right to Know should be included in Queensland's domestic violence framework, and if so;
- What information should be disclosed;
- When information should be disclosed; and
- What process should be adopted for applications, approvals and disclosures.

Feedback is being sought in writing (addressed to Tracy Davis MP, c/- Opposition Office, PO Box 15057, City East, Qld 4002), or online at [www.clareslawqld.com.au](http://www.clareslawqld.com.au) by Monday 31 August 2015.

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