

Media Release

The Hon Martin Pakula MP
Attorney-General
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NEW WEBSITE TO HELP VICTIMS NAVIGATE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Victims of crime and witnesses will find it easier to navigate the criminal justice system thanks to a new Office of Public Prosecutions' website launched by the Andrews Labor Government today.

Funded through the Labor Government's \$18.9 million package for the Office of Public Prosecutions in the *Victorian Budget 2017/18*, the new website links victims and witness with information on support services, and provides clearer information on the role of victims and witnesses in the prosecution process.

Developed in consultation with the Victims of Crime Consultative Committee, the website is designed to work on all devices, including mobile phones and tablets, so it can be accessed wherever it is needed.

The Office of Public Prosecutions has also developed a Service and Communication Charter for Victims, which can be viewed on the site.

The charter outlines the Office of Public Prosecution's pledge to treat victims with courtesy, respect, dignity and sensitivity, as well as ensuring that they are prepared for and feel involved in the prosecution process.

The \$18.9 million funding package is also helping the Office of Public Prosecutions to brief the best quality representation to prosecute serious criminal matters, including carjackings, home invasions, family violence and sexual offences.

The Office of Public Prosecution will also recruit more social workers to support victims before and during trials, including victims of sexual assault and family violence.

The package is in addition to the \$1.9 billion already committed to implement the 227 recommendations from the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

Visit the new website at victimsandwitnesses.opp.vic.gov.au

Quotes attributable to Attorney-General Martin Pakula

"It's critical that victims and witnesses receive the information and support they need to navigate the Victorian criminal justice system."

"Criminal processes can be lengthy, complex and stressful for victims and witnesses. The new website will help people to access the information and support they need."