



# STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria  
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Expanding the Use of Electronic Monitoring Bracelets

Stuart Grimley MP has asked the Government to consider increasing the use of electronic monitoring bracelets to high risk family violence offenders and recidivist violent offenders.

Mr Grimley, in Parliament yesterday, has promoted the technology which is cost effective and reduces unnecessarily high prison populations - requesting for the use of electronic bracelets to be expanded.

The former police officer who worked for Victoria Police for over seven years, also said electronic monitoring leads to lower rates of recidivism as "offenders of lower level crimes are not housed alongside more serious offenders."

There are many forms of 'electronic monitoring' which form effective parole and sentencing conditions including monitoring curfews, inclusion/exclusion zones and regulating the consumption of alcohol.

Having seen many family violence situations during his time at Victoria Police, Mr Grimley said this technology would also be a great way to monitor breaches of intervention orders which is a common offence for family violence perpetrators.

Earlier this year Mr Grimley raised [another question](#) in Parliament regarding the monitoring of ankle bracelets following the tragic Darwin shooting whereby the perpetrator was on parole wearing an electronic monitoring device. Mr Grimley asked the Government what they were doing "in order to ensure a similar tragedy does not occur in Victoria?" and the average response time for breaches of curfew.

The Government responded saying the practice of monitoring electronic monitoring bracelets by Corrections Victoria is "working effectively" and the average response time to alerts was "two minutes or less" as at December 2018.

There are known limitations to the effectiveness of electronic monitoring bracelets with respect to reception, which the bracelets need to communicate - and to be tracked 24 hours a day - with the monitoring agency. However, the location of an offender legally needs to be factored into the provision of electronic monitoring as part of sentencing.

### Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:

"Electronic monitoring bracelets are a great way to monitor sex offenders - we should be looking to expand the use of this technology to recidivist and family violence offenders.

Electronic monitoring has come a long way with technological developments and I think this approach should be expanded to family violence and recidivist violent offenders.

There are constantly conversations floating about the amount it costs to keep prisoners locked up; this is an alternative cost-efficient punishment that has already proved to be effective in other jurisdictions.

I respect that some offenders with prospects for rehabilitation can take backwards steps in prison. We need measures to ensure the community is safe and I believe ankle bracelets and electronic monitoring are a great way to do this. They allow offenders access to important services to assist them staying out of prison."

Stuart's full speech is available on his website.

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