



# STUART GRIMLEY MP

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

## MEDIA RELEASE



### Grimley Queries Start Date for Geelong's Specialist Family Violence Court

5 May 2021

State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party Stuart Grimley has asked the Government when Geelong Magistrates Court will begin construction on its specialist family violence court.

[Recommendation 60](#) of the Royal Commission into Family Violence states that "all Magistrates' Court of Victoria headquarter courts and specialist family violence courts have the functions of Family Violence Court Division courts".

In December 2019, Mr Grimley visited Ballarat's then-new specialist family violence court within the Ballarat Magistrates Court. It had a separate entrance for victim survivors to their perpetrators, separate waiting rooms for perpetrators and victim survivors, a warm and welcoming reception for children and families, specifically trained staff to deal with family violence cases and other court support services readily available.

The State Government website currently states that Recommendation 60 should be implemented by 31 July 2021 but during his question to the Attorney-General, Mr Grimley noted "there's currently no temporary fencing up around the court" signalling it would be impossible for works to be completed in two months' time as promised.

Recent Crime Statistics Agency statistics show that there were 4,283 family violence incidents in the Greater Geelong area in 2020, a 14.2% increase on 2019 and which is higher than the Victorian average.

The push for Geelong's specialist family violence court has also come from Barwon Area Integrated Family Violence Committee (BAIFVC), which comprises a number of organisations that are stakeholders in the family violence crisis including (but not limited to) Victoria Police, Bethany, The Sexual Assault and Family Violence Centre, Colac Area Health, Barwon Child, Youth & Family and Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.

### Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:

"Geelong had over 4,000 incidents of family violence last year, more than some other regions that have had specialist family violence courts built. The State Government need to build this specialist family violence court in Geelong.

Given the specialist family violence courts aren't built yet and have no finish date, what initiatives will the Government undertake in Geelong to make our justice system more family friendly or appropriate for our kids?

Congratulations to the BAIFVC on their amazing work in collaborating to reduce family violence in the Geelong and Barwon areas."

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