



# STUART GRIMLEY MP

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

## MEDIA RELEASE



### Grimley Doubles Down on Victims' Charter Act Compliance

15 October 2021

State leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party, Stuart Grimley MP has asked the Attorney-General, Jaclyn Symes, in Parliament to reveal what the Office of Public Prosecutions has done to improve their compliance with the Victims' Charter Act.

This question comes after an Office of Public Prosecutions audit in their 2019/20 Annual Report revealed that only 80 per cent of victims were treated in compliance with organisational policies.

That means one in every five victims of crime are not treated in compliance with the Act. In practice, this could be a victim of crime not being notified about plea bargaining or the dropping of charges of their offender.

Further, the Victims of Crime Commissioner has reported in its 2019/2020 Annual Report, that only 31% of prescribed agencies have mechanisms in place to comply with the Act.

Last week in Parliament Mr Grimley questioned the Attorney-General on government plans to strengthen the Victims' Charter Act, which he described as a 'toothless tiger'. In her answer in Question Time last week the Attorney-General committed to reviewing the Victims' Charter Act to make sure it supports victims of crime.

You can view Mr Grimley's original question and answer [here](#).

The Victims' Charter Act was put in place more than 15 years ago to ensure victims do not become traumatised, and further victimised, by the justice system. It is becoming more evident that government agencies are failing Victorians when it comes to support within the justice system.

#### Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:

"Derryn Hinch's Justice Party was founded on the belief that all victims should be heard, supported and importantly, believed, when they are going through our justice system. The Victims' Charter Act was created to ensure victims are treated fairly but the Department of Public Prosecutions only treats victims of crime in compliance with the Act 80 per cent of the time.

It is difficult to comprehend that only 31 per cent of prescribed government agencies have mechanisms in place to comply with the legislation. It's not as if this legislation was introduced 12 months ago; it has been 15 years, which is more than enough time for departments to implement mechanisms in line with legislation.

Not only do we need to strengthen this 'toothless tiger', but we need to penalise Department executives that oversee the implementation of the Victims' Charter Act.

I look forward to working with the Attorney-General to ensure that victims are supported when they are going through our justice system. I will always put the rights of victims before the rights of perpetrators."

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