

**Michael Gallacher  
MLC**  
Minister for Police  
and Emergency  
Services

**Greg Smith SC MP**  
Attorney General  
Minister for Justice

**Pru Goward MP**  
Minister for Family and  
Community Services  
Minister for Women



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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **FASTER ADVOs TO ENSURE SAFETY OF VICTIMS**

Police will soon be able to issue provisional apprehended domestic violence orders (ADVOs) to protect victims of domestic violence, Attorney General Greg Smith SC and Police Minister Michael Gallacher announced today.

Under the proposal, provisional ADVOs can be issued by senior police officers of the rank of sergeant or above. Currently only court registrars or other authorised officers can issue ADVOs.

Provisional ADVOs are available in emergency situations, and can only be issued where there is a good reason to believe that an immediate order is needed to ensure the safety of the protected person or prevent substantial property damage.

“Four out of every five ADVO applications are made outside of court hours, causing potential delays in getting an order to protect the victim from the alleged perpetrator,” Mr Smith said.

“After a provisional ADVO is issued by authorised police, the case will be listed before a court within 28 days – much quicker in most metropolitan courts. Interim and final ADVOs will still only be issued by a court,” he said.

“In an additional safeguard, the defendant can apply to the court to challenge the police-issued ADVO before the first listing date.”

This proposal to amend existing domestic violence legislation acts on a recommendation of the Upper House inquiry into Domestic Violence Trends and Issues, and follows inquiries by the NSW and Australian law reform commissions.

Police Minister Michael Gallacher said this proposal would save police time to travel between the location where incident occurred and the police station to seek the order – while the victim and defendant had to remain in their home.

“The legislation empowers police to order the defendant of the ADVO to accompany them to the station or another designated place to keep the victim safe in their home. Police will

also have powers to detain any defendant who refuses reasonable directions for up to two hours.”

“This will reduce the risk of the defendant disappearing before the order is served.”

The Minister for Women, Pru Goward said: “Faster ADVOs will mean that police are able to respond more efficiently to keep victims of domestic violence safe.”

“Enabling police to direct the defendant to accompany them to a police station means that victims and their children will be able to stay in their homes while the order is made.”

“This is a common sense approach to help protect victims of domestic violence,” she said.

“This legislation will include significant safeguards, and will be reviewed after the first 12 months of operation,” said Mr Smith.

This announcement follows the launch late last year of the government’s new Domestic Violence Justice Strategy, which provides a more coordinated and consistent multi-agency approach to domestic violence in the justice system.

Last year nearly 30,000 provisional domestic and personal AVOs were granted by authorised officers.