

Legislative Council



MEDIA RELEASE

13 September 2012

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS Petition Number 161: Review of the Laws Pertaining to Domestic Violence

The Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs tabled its 27th report in the Legislative Council today. The report is a response to Petition Number 161, tabled on 16 May 2012. The petition requests that the Legislative Council urge the Attorney General to review the laws pertaining to domestic violence with the goal of ensuring that there is an appropriate legislative framework for dealing with cases involving a history of violence and abuse. The motivation for the petition appears to have been a series of family and domestic violence incidents which resulted in the victims' deaths and for which their alleged perpetrators were charged with the so-called 'one-punch homicide'.

The Committee agreed with the tenor of the petition and made the following recommendation:

The Committee recommends that the Government urgently review the legislative framework for addressing family and domestic violence incidents to ensure that it appropriately acknowledges and reflects any history of violence and abuse associated with such incidents.

A copy of the report can be obtained from the Committee Clerk (details below) or viewed on the Parliament's website (www.parliament.wa.gov.au).

For media inquiries, contact the Chair of the Committee, Hon Brian Ellis MLC, on 9222 7890 (Parliament House), 9923 9211 (Electorate Office) or 0429 082 332 (Mobile).

Other inquiries should be addressed to Mr Mark Warner, Committee Clerk, on 9222 7410 or mwarner@parliament.wa.gov.au.