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Seeking Justice

In June 2003, the Crime and Misconduct Commission (CMC) completed an inquiry into the handling of sexual offence cases by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) and the ODPP. The inquiry resulted in the report *'Seeking Justice: an inquiry into the handling of sexual offences by the criminal justice system'*.

The CMC have reviewed the implementation of these recommendations and published the results in March 2008 in the report titled, *'How the Criminal Justice System Handles Allegations of Sexual Abuse: a review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Seeking Justice Report'*.

The Seeking Justice report made 23 recommendations for changes to the processes relating to the handling of sexual offences by QPS and the ODPP. Since that time the ODPP has implemented a range of recommendations.

In April 2009, senior managers from the QPS and the ODPP established the 'QPS and ODPP Seeking Justice Committee' to enhance the operation of the investigation and prosecution process in relation to sexual offences and monitor and review the systemic issues of other agencies. The committee continue to meet monthly in response to outstanding recommendations from the CMC's 2003 report.

With regard to Recommendation 10 of the June 2003 report, the ODPP established the 'QPS and ODPP Working Group' in April 2009. The working group will continue to meet on a monthly basis to review all failed sexual offence prosecutions and provide the Committee with a written report every six months. The report will contain an analysis and recommendations for changes to prevent failed prosecutions and to enhance service delivery in both the QPS and the ODPP.

As a further initiative, the ODPP established the Understanding Sexual Offences Training (USOT) Project in January 2009, to address recommendations stemming from the CMC's 2003 report. The five month project was established to develop and implement specialist sexual offences training for victim liaison officers, legal officers and prosecutors across the ODPP.

A four module training program comprised of an eight hour face-to-face training forum, online learning and a competency acquisition work-based learning tool.

Between 31 March and 19 June 2009, a total of 14 forums were delivered and 220 staff attended statewide. This included 100% of staff from the 9 Regional Chambers and 81% of staff from the 7 Brisbane based Chambers.