The Mini Budget will see the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice return its focus to the core services it was designed to deliver.

The department will once more put the emphasis on Territorians who are victims of crime. The Victims of Crime levy increases will provide additional support for those affected by crime.

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice John Elferink said from 2014-15, $2 million ongoing will be used to implement the Safe Homes policy.

“This policy will help families stay safe in their homes by improving security. This could mean strengthening doors, installing security lights, house alarms or silent monitored alarms that alert the police when activated, and repairing broken windows and door frames,” Mr Elferink said.

“Given the dire financial situation the Country Liberals Government inherited, savings had to be identified and tough decisions made.

“We inherited many expensive legacies from Labor that we have had to evaluate and prioritise across all portfolios. In the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice the following new funds have been allocated:

- $1.29 million ongoing from 2012-13 for court support services;
- $650,000 ongoing from 2012-13 to support the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions; and
- $165,000 ongoing from 2012-13 for domestic violence legal services.

“Savings of $4.2 million per year by 2014-15 will be made by disbanding the Substance Misuse and Referral for Treatment (SMART) Court, the Alcohol and Other Drugs Tribunal and the Community Court.

“These were inefficient policies that focused on ‘looking good’ instead of positive results. Only 52 people have graduated from the SMART Court system and 37 have failed. The Alcohol and Other Drugs Tribunal heard 56 matters in a year, many involving the same person.

“In typical Labor fashion, money was thrown at the problem and when that didn’t work, more money was poured into it.

“In the past decade, under Labor, the number of lawyers within the department has grown from a handful to 83. The department has confirmed that it can operate with around 20 fewer positions. The Community Justice Policy Unit and its grants program are to be phased out in the next two years. These measures will save $3.5 million a year from 2014-15.

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"We have had to make tough decisions and savings in this Mini Budget and in subsequent budgets. A range of fees and charges for services provided by the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice* will be increased from July 2013 to generally bring those costs up to the average charged in other states," Mr Elferink said.

The affected fees and charges include:
- Land Titles Lodgement Fees and Levies
- Land Titles Search Fees, Enforcement fees
- Civil Court Fees (Local Court)
- Births, Deaths and Marriages Fees and Levies
- Public Trustee Fees and Charges
- Criminal Court Fees
- Public Trustee Commissions
- Supreme Court Fees
- Criminal Infringement Fees
- Court Charges

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