Media Release

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Government of South Australia

Kyam Maher MLC
Deputy Premier
Attorney-General

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Serious offenders to lose rights over victims' burial sites

New laws have passed State Parliament which will prevent serious offenders from having control over their victims' final resting place.

The move comes as the State Government promises additional funding to South Australia's Homicide Victims Support Group to strengthen its work in providing targeted support and assistance to young people who have lost a loved one to homicide.

Under the reforms which passed Parliament this week, a deceased's loved one can seek to have an interment right varied, transferred or surrendered when it is held by an individual who committed a serious crime against the deceased.

The move will help ensure that offenders have no control over the site at which their victims are buried.

The Government has also announced additional funding of $40,000 over 2 years to the Homicide Victims Support Group to help adolescents and young adults travel to *Grace's Place* in New South Wales – the nation's only residential trauma centre for children and young people whose lives have been impacted by the killing of a loved one.

The funding brings the Government's total investment in the Homicide Victims Support Group to over $162,000 over four years.

Quotes attributable to Kyam Maher

Allowing serious and violent offenders to have incontestable control over the site at which their victims are laid to rest is a truly horrifying concept, and could cause unimaginable distress to the victim's loved ones.

These reforms will ensure that a victim's final resting place is exactly that – and will be free of the control of the offender who inflicted so much harm on them while they were alive.

I'm also pleased we have been able to allocate additional funding to further the invaluable work done by the Homicide Victims Support Group of SA.

This will go a long way to help those young people whose lives have been touched by unspeakable evil and helping them get the support and assistance they need.

Quotes attributable to Homicide Victims Support Group SA

The Homicide Victim Support Group sincerely welcomes and thanks the Government for this important reform, which will help ensure our loved ones can be laid to rest with dignity, respect and peace. For families bereaved by homicide, this is deeply meaningful.

We also gratefully acknowledge the Government's commitment to funding Graces Place over the next two years. We have seen firsthand the difference it makes in providing adolescents and young adults impacted by homicide with a safe place to reconnect, feel understood and receive ongoing support.

We sincerely thank the Attorney-General for his support and commitment to initiatives that make a meaningful difference to those impacted by homicide, now and into the future.