

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Minister for Integrity

Estimates 2026
Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 01

QUESTION:

Can the Attorney-General outline how the Government is delivering on its commitment to further consult on anti-discrimination legislation in Queensland?

ANSWER:

The Crisafulli Government is delivering on its commitment to consult on the next steps for anti-discrimination legislation by launching a comprehensive, independent review of Queensland's anti-discrimination and human rights frameworks.

This follows the rushed passage of the *Respect at Work and Other Matters Amendment Act 2024* (Respect at Work Act) in the final days of the former government.

The Crisafulli Government paused the commencement of the Respect at Work Act to allow sufficient time for further policy work and to deliver on the government's election commitment to consult with stakeholders about reforms to anti-discrimination law.

On 11 June 2026, the Government announced that retired Supreme Court Justice the Honourable Peter Flanagan KC will undertake a holistic review of Queensland's anti-discrimination and human rights frameworks. The terms of reference provide for three parts to the review: a strategic review of the Queensland Human Rights Commission (part A), a further review of the *Human Rights Act 2019* (part B), and a review of the uncommenced provisions of the Respect at Work Act which amends the Anti-Discrimination Act (part C). In relation to part C of the Review, the terms of reference require the Reviewer to consider the potential operation of the uncommenced provisions of the Respect at Work Act, and to make any recommendations concerning the operation of and reform to the Anti-Discrimination Act. As part of this work, the Reviewer is required to consider the implications for victims of crime. Further, in line with the Government's commitment, the Reviewer has also been directed to conduct targeted consultation with stakeholders.

In accordance with these terms of reference, the Review has released an indicative timeline and overview of its work, which provides for consultation with the Queensland Human Rights Commission and staff, government departments, courts, legal professionals, industry groups and organisations with an interest in human rights and anti-discrimination matters. Consultation meetings with key stakeholders and peak bodies will also be held.

Additionally, the Review has also indicated that it will accept and consider submissions from Queenslanders following the release of a Discussion Paper, allowing anyone to provide their views on matters relating to the Discussion Paper or that fall within the terms of reference.

The Final Report is due for completion by 31 March 2027, with the final report to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Minister for Integrity

Estimates 2026
Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 02

QUESTION:

Noting the key deliverables of the Department of Justice on page one of the Service Delivery Statement; can the Attorney-General explain what the Crisafulli Government is doing to better protect children in Queensland and implement the In Plain Sight child protection reforms?

ANSWER:

On 16 June 2026, the Crisafulli Government released its response to In Plain Sight: Review into System Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, which sets out a clear plan for how this government will keep children safe and reform the broken system it inherited.

The cornerstone of the Queensland Government's response will be establishing a nation leading child safeguarding entity, the Queensland Protection Commission (QPC), backed by an investment of over \$250 million over four years from 2026–27, which will co-locate Queensland's Reportable Conduct Scheme, Child Safe Standards and Working with Children Check functions. It will also host a new intelligence hub function, the first of its kind in Australia, supported by a legally authorised intelligence network which enables the use of police intelligence material (as well as a range of other intelligence) to proactively detect and address patterns of behaviour that may present risks to children.

We will strengthen penalties in our Working With Children Checks and Child Safe Organisations laws for those who do not appropriately raise reportable conduct matters or knowingly make false statements associated with Blue Card, Reportable Conduct Scheme and Child Safe Standards matters.

We will continue to work with the Australian Government to advocate for greater Commonwealth investment and stronger national reforms aimed at preventing threats moving between jurisdictions, including work to connect to the National Continuous Checking Capability for Blue Card holders.

Our commitment to victims extends to our most vulnerable – children in our communities – who deserve to be safe in all settings in Queensland.

The Queensland Government response to In Plain Sight: Review into System Responses to Child Sexual Abuse can be found here: <https://www.justice.qld.gov.au/initiatives/qg-response-in-plain-sight-review>.

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Minister for Integrity

Estimates 2026
Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 03

QUESTION:

With regard to the \$10.6 million additional funding allocated to enhance the capacity and capability of prosecution services in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution, can the Attorney-General provide the following information:

- a. Why this is necessary?
- b. How will this funding be utilised?
- c. How will this improve faster access to justice?
- d. How this builds on previous investments?

ANSWER:

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) is central to making Queensland safer. A modern prosecution service supports victims through specialised legal advice, trauma-informed prosecutions, and expanded victim engagement practices.

The \$10.6 million funding boost in this year's budget will inject the experience, expertise, guidance and mentorship to provide strategic leadership and management oversight of more complex prosecutions. Specifically, the investment will see the appointment of two additional regionally based Deputy Directors. It is also enabling the ODPP to convert 25 junior roles into frontline senior prosecutor roles.

Additional resourcing for the ODPP will help to deliver timely and high-quality prosecution services across the state, focusing on regional areas. This will ensure expert prosecutors are available to maintain direct involvement in the most serious and complex prosecutions, delivering justice to victims. It will also help alleviate the extensive workload carried by the hard-working prosecutors around the State, improving service quality for victims of crime and expediting case progression.

As noted in the Service Delivery Statement the conviction rate of defendants who are prosecuted on indictment of the ODPP exceeded the 2025-26 target by 5%, with a conviction rate of 90%.

This further funding builds on the government's previous investments in the ODPP to prioritise victims in the prosecution of matters, including:

- \$6.3 million for Faster Justice to fast-track preparation of backlogged DNA cases for Court.
- \$1 million for the Queensland Intermediary Scheme and two FTE.
- \$25.5 million and 18 FTE to bolster support provided to victims of crime through the Victim Liaison Services and to enhance administrative support provided to legal chambers.
- \$5.2 million for Making Queensland Safer Laws and nine FTE.

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Minister for Integrity

Estimates 2026
Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 04

QUESTION:

What is the Attorney-General doing to support the legal profession in delivering legal services to Queenslanders, including improving access to justice and the delivery of justice services?

ANSWER:

As the First Legal Officer of the State, the Attorney-General is a strong advocate for the legal profession and continues to promote the profession and solicitors and barristers across Queensland, particularly in rural and regional Queensland.

Legal Aid Queensland Preferred Suppliers

In the provision of legal support, Legal Aid Queensland (LAQ) has developed partnerships with almost 400 private legal practitioners located throughout Queensland. These private practitioners (known as preferred suppliers) ensure demand for legal aid services is met and clients can receive legal help, despite being unable to access a local Legal Aid Queensland office. Importantly, preferred suppliers can provide advice to clients, help clients with their legal problems and represent clients in court.

The Attorney-General has advocated to the Standing Council of Attorneys-General (SCAG) on the need to ensure the legal assistance preferred supplier model is fit-for-purpose and supports equitable access to justice, particularly in regional, rural and remote areas.

SCAG noted these issues and agreed that a review of the preferred supplier model would be undertaken following delivery of the National Legal Assistance Workforce Strategy, scheduled for June 2027. Specifically, through the SCAG process the Attorney-General is advocating for preferred suppliers to receive adequate funding to ensure they can continue to provide support to Queenslanders, particularly those located in regional and remote settings.

Digital Legal Services

The Department of Justice is also investing in essential court digital systems to ensure timely and efficient court proceedings and to support the judiciary and provide better access to justice. This includes:

- \$13.3 M over four years and \$4.8 M per annum ongoing for recording and transcription services to ensure courts users receive timely and quality records of court proceedings, a fundamental feature of an accessible justice system.
- \$8.8 M over four years and \$2.5 M per annum ongoing for licencing of digital systems essential to the day-to-day delivery of timely and effective court proceedings.

Estimates 2026

Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

Technology and application system upgrades have also been rolled out to streamline court and legal processes, saving time for legal practitioners and delivering faster access to justice. This includes:

- a new state-wide online application for legal representatives to lodge and track committal court documents online; and
- ongoing functionality and usability updates to the Wills and Estates system, an application which enables legal practitioners to electronically lodge probates in the Supreme Court.

Before the end of 2026, the Department of Justice will deliver a new case management system for civil matters in the Supreme, District and Land Court and Court of Appeal. This application will enable online lodgement for legal practitioners, saving time and costs for the legal profession.

Support for practitioners

The Department of Justice manages the whole-of-Government legal services panel, a standing offer arrangement (SOA) sitting within the Department of Housing and Public Works professional services category. The SOA ends on 30 September 2026 and provides government departments and agencies with access to high quality legal services through a mix of legal services providers offering competitive rates.

A new legal services panel, expected to start on 1 October 2026, includes a new category of small business and regional supplier services aimed at encouraging greater participation from Queensland small and family businesses and Queensland Regional Suppliers.

The Department of Justice also manages the whole-of-Government policy for barristers undertaking legal work for Queensland Government departments. This policy provides a consistent and fair approach to remunerating barristers engaged by or on behalf of Queensland Government departments.

The Attorney-General has asked the Department of Justice to identify a package of potential reforms to the *Personal Injuries Proceedings Act 2002* and the *Civil Liability Act 2003* for government to consider. Work is progressing to identify opportunities for reform, with a particular focus on modernising certain provisions of those Acts to support lawyers to efficiently manage matters and proceedings.

In addition, the Department of Justice is progressing significant reform to create new criminal procedure laws for Queensland's Magistrates Courts. The new laws will establish a contemporary and effective procedural framework to replace the *Justices Act 1886*. This reform will modernise the jurisdiction, promote better understanding and navigation of court processes, and improve overall criminal justice system accessibility for all court users.

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Minister for Integrity

Estimates 2026
Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 05

QUESTION:

With reference to the commitment listed in the Attorney-General's charter letter regarding the Disability Royal Commission; can the Attorney-General provide an update on the Government's implementation of the recommendations made by the Commission?

ANSWER:

The Crisafulli Government is committed to implementing the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (Disability Royal Commission).

The Government's updated response to the Disability Royal Commission, tabled on 11 December 2025, sets out the Government's refreshed commitments to the recommendations made.

The 2025 Progress Report, published by the Australian Government on 27 November 2025, shares updates on the progress made by all Governments on each of the 222 recommendations made by the Disability Royal Commission, including what has been achieved to date and what work is in progress.

Work on the 2026 Progress Report is in progress, overseen by the Disability Reform Ministerial Council, and is expected to be published in late 2026.

The Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence has primary responsibility for the delivery and coordination of the Government's response to the Disability Royal Commission.

Of the 222 recommendations made by the Disability Royal Commission, 30 recommendations are led by the Department of Justice. Eight of these are joint Commonwealth, state and territory recommendations progressing through the relevant Ministerial Council. I am working closely with the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence to implement outstanding recommendations in the Justice portfolio.

In response to many of the recommendations in the Justice portfolio (recommendations 6.4-6.10), I am pleased to say that a Guardianship Working Group has been established with key guardianship statutory entities to explore reform options aimed at improving supported decision-making and modernising Queensland's guardianship system. Following receipt of the Working Group's report I will consider next steps, including wider consultation.

Further, the Department of Justice has undertaken consultation with the community and people with lived experience to understand and improve the capability of courts and tribunals to deliver accessible services that enable the full participation of people with disability (in response to recommendation 8.11).

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Minister for Integrity

Estimates 2026
Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 06

QUESTION:

It has been almost a year since the *Property Law Act 2023* came into effect; can the Attorney-General indicate what steps she and her department have taken to consult stakeholders regarding the implementation of the changes including the review of seller disclosure arrangements?

ANSWER:

Following assent of the *Property Law Act 2023* in November 2023, the Department of Justice established the Property Law Working Group consisting of key legal, property and body corporate industry stakeholders and peak bodies to provide a channel of communication between government and stakeholders in relation to implementation of the Act.

In particular, the Working Group was consulted on the timing for the commencement of the Act; the development of the seller disclosure scheme; the drafting of *Property Law Regulation 2024*; and the wording of approved forms under the Act, such as the Form 2 Seller Disclosure Statement and the body corporate certificate (under the Body Corporate legislation).

Since commencement on 1 August 2025, the Department has monitored the implementation of the Act and the seller disclosure scheme through the Working Group.

In November and December 2025, Working Group members were invited to make submissions about any issues arising in practice, suggested changes to the requirements under the seller disclosure scheme and any other issues arising under the Act.

In many cases, the submissions from stakeholders proposed technical changes to the Form 2 Seller Disclosure Statement to improve or clarify its operation; or amendments to the body corporate certificate to clarify or enhance the provision of lot and body corporate specific information to buyers.

The Working Group submissions are being considered and will inform any changes to the requirements under the seller disclosure scheme.

In addition to engaging with the Working Group, I regularly meet with various stakeholders including but not limited seller agents, strata industry groups, real estate agents, property lawyers and more. Their feedback is being considered and will help inform any changes to the seller disclosure scheme.

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Minister for Integrity

Estimates 2026
Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 07

QUESTION:

With the Department of Justice being responsible for the Gambling Community Benefit Fund, can the Attorney-General:

- a. Outline how the independent committee reflects experience, knowledge, and skills from across Queensland?
- b. Outline how this investment supports communities across Queensland?

ANSWER:

Each year, the Queensland Government's Gambling Community Benefit Fund distributes approximately \$60 million directly into community services across Queensland, including sporting clubs, dedicated volunteer groups and local organisations.

The Gambling Community Benefit Fund supports communities across Queensland by providing vital funding to not-for-profit organisations, enabling them to deliver projects and initiatives that address the local needs and priorities of Queensland communities.

Grant applications are assessed by the Gambling Community Benefit Committee, an independent body comprised of 12 members from diverse community and industry sectors across Queensland. Each member of the Committee brings key experience in community participation, sports, clubs, governance or leadership to the assessment of Gambling Community Benefit Fund grant applications.

With representatives from both urban and regional Queensland, from Goondiwindi to Cape York, including members from First Nations and culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, the Committee reflects Queensland's diversity. This broad representation ensures balanced, informed grant assessments and funding recommendations guided by experienced community leaders attuned to Queensland's diverse needs and opportunities.

The Gambling Community Benefit Fund remains a critical source of funding for regional and remote Queensland, with more than 50% of successful applicants located outside Southeast Queensland. The grants are helping to improve access to services and strengthen local infrastructure in communities that often have limited alternative funding options.

In 2025-26, more than 500 not for profit organisations shared in \$31 million through a targeted super round (Round 124), which focused on disaster recovery and preparedness, supporting projects that restore community infrastructure, strengthen local resilience, and assist organisations in areas impacted by declared severe weather and other events.

This super round attracted more than 3000 applications from across Queensland, making it the most sought-after grant round in the program's 31-year-history. Funded projects include repairing and

Estimates 2026
Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

restoring facilities damaged by floods and cyclones, replacing essential equipment, enhancing emergency response capability, installing resilient infrastructure such as improved drainage and energy-efficient lighting, and upgrading community facilities to improve safety and accessibility.

More than 100 organisations received the maximum grant of \$100,000, reflecting the scale of recovery initiatives supported across impacted communities. These investments are helping communities recover more quickly from natural disasters while strengthening their resilience to future events.

Through these efforts, the Gambling Community Benefit Fund continues to deliver strong public value, aligning with the Crisafulli Government's priority to build connected, inclusive, and resilient communities across Queensland.

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Minister for Integrity

Estimates 2026
Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 08

QUESTION:

Can the Attorney-General outline what the government is doing to deliver legal support and resourcing for vulnerable Queenslanders and Queensland children?

ANSWER:

Protecting children is a key priority for the Crisafulli Government, and we recognise the critical role the legal assistance sector plays in helping vulnerable Queenslanders, including children and young people, access justice and support right across the State.

We are committed to working closely with the sector to understand Queensland's unique service delivery challenges and respond to the legal needs of our communities.

In 2024, I signed the *National Access to Justice Partnership 2025–30* on behalf of Queensland, securing \$828 million in vital Commonwealth Government funding for Queensland's legal assistance sector. This was supported by an additional \$142 million in dedicated State funding committed by the Crisafulli Government, lifting Queensland's total investment in the sector to \$1 billion over 2025–30.

This is the largest state investment in Queensland's legal assistance sector in the history of this State.

This decisive action by the Crisafulli Government provided certainty and stability for Queensland's legal assistance sector after the former government left a funding cliff and frontline legal assistance services vulnerable. Our action has resulted in an unprecedented, combined State and Commonwealth funding of over \$1.8 billion, which has now ensured the continued delivery of critical legal support and resourcing for vulnerable Queenslanders and Queensland children.

The Crisafulli Government's actions have ensured continued five-year funding to Legal Aid Queensland (LAQ) to provide free legal advice to financially disadvantaged Queenslanders; and to 27 community legal centres, including specialised women's legal services, to deliver free legal assistance and wrap around referral services to vulnerable and disadvantaged Queenslanders.

We have also ensured continued five-year funding to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (ATSILS) to provide culturally appropriate legal services to First Nations people; and to family violence prevention and legal services to provide culturally safe legal and critical non-legal wrap around services for First Nations families, most often women and children, experiencing family, domestic and sexual violence.

This uplift in funding will provide free or subsidised legal advice, representation, information and referrals across criminal, civil and family law, including matters involving children, child protection, domestic and family violence, housing, and other complex legal issues.

Estimates 2026

Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

In the 2026-27 Budget, the Crisafulli Government also committed \$10 million to LAQ and ATSILS for essential justice services to support faster access to justice by bolstering legal staff to reduce delays in access to legal representation for vulnerable or disadvantaged people in Queensland and address backlogs in court matters.

The Crisafulli Government remains committed to ensuring vulnerable Queenslanders can access the legal support they need, when and where they need it. Together with the Commonwealth Government, we are progressing long-term reforms to strengthen the sustainability, capability and responsiveness of Queensland's legal assistance sector.

I will continue to advocate for services that cater to the impacts of our dispersed geography and regions which are unique to Queensland, and ensure vulnerable people across Queensland have the basic human right of access to justice.

In 2025-26, \$62.4 million in funding was provided to Community Legal Centres. Further funding details can be found on the Department of Justice website: www.justice.qld.gov.au/about-us/services/legal-assistance-strategy-and-funding-unit.

The Crisafulli Government is providing additional funding of \$16.8 million in 2026-27 to support the Director of Child Protection Litigation's statutory obligations and for associated functions provided by Court Services Queensland and the Dispute Resolution Branch.

The Crisafulli Government has also taken strong action to address gaps in the child protection system we inherited from the former Labor Government as identified by the Child Death Review Board in its *In Plain Sight* report. This includes our commitment to establish the new Queensland Protection Commission backed by an investment of over \$250 million over four years from 2026–27, which will co-locate safeguarding functions including the Reportable Conduct Scheme, Child Safe Standards, and Queensland Worker Screening Services, child protection oversight, and establish a new nation-leading intelligence hub. We will continue to deliver further reforms to strengthen child safety, improve accountability, and better protect children and young people from sexual abuse.

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Minister for Integrity

Estimates 2026
Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 09

QUESTION:

The budget lists \$22.1 million over four years and \$7.3 million per annum ongoing to invest in digital systems in Queensland Courts; can the Attorney-General describe how this will improve the timeliness and efficiency of court proceedings?

ANSWER:

The Department of Justice is investing in essential court digital systems to ensure timely and efficient court proceedings and deliver faster access to justice for victims. This includes:

- \$13.3 M over four years and \$4.8 M per annum ongoing for recording and transcription services to ensure courts users receive timely and quality records of court proceedings, a fundamental feature of an accessible justice system.
- \$8.8 M over four years and \$2.5 M per annum ongoing for licencing of digital systems, a foundational element of effective and efficient court registries. This is essential to the day-to-day delivery of timely and effective proceedings.

This investment supports the technology and application system upgrades that will have been delivered by the end of 2026, including:

- a case management system for all Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) jurisdictions. This will enable tribunal users to engage online with QCAT and streamline processes for QCAT users.
- a case management system for civil matters in the Supreme, District and Land Court and Court of Appeal, which will enable online lodgement for court users and streamline registry processes.
- an expanded digital workspace application for judicial officers in the Supreme, District and Land Court. This application will enable judicial officers to access and manage information more effectively both in court and in chambers.
- an online platform to manage and access vulnerable witness evidence recordings, including requests, scheduling and judicial orders. This will reduce manual handling and delays.
- new judicial bench IT equipment across the state for District and Supreme Courts, which will enable judicial officers to access digital files in court through online case management system.

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Minister for Integrity

Estimates 2026
Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 10

QUESTION:

The Department of Justice has oversight and responsibility for a significant number of reports and reviews into many issues affecting Queenslanders. Can the Attorney-General outline how these matters are progressing under her portfolio?

ANSWER:

The Crisafulli Government is committed to implementing recommendations arising from major reviews and inquiries where they meet with community needs, are fiscally responsible, and align with our policy priorities to strengthen Queensland's justice system, improve community safety and ensure victims remain at the centre of our reforms.

When the Crisafulli Government took office, there were numerous statutory reviews that had not been undertaken by the former Labor Government – including in connection with family and domestic violence bail provisions, the *Family and Child Commission Act 2014*, the *Director of Child Protection Litigations Act 2014*, and *Queensland Civil Administration and Tribunal Act 2009*.

After Labor's failure to undertake statutory reviews, including legislation affecting child safety, the Crisafulli Government launched a major inquiry into the failures of the Blue Card Child Protection system under Labor, delivering on a key election commitment within its first 100 days in office. In addition, the Queensland Government announced a Commission of Inquiry into Queensland's child safety system. Both of these investigations have now been completed and the government response to the *In Plain Sight* report has already been finalised, with the response to the Child Safety Commission of Inquiry imminent. These reviews and associated responses demonstrate the government's commitment to supporting Queensland's most vulnerable children and to reform the child safety and protection sector after Labor's decade of decline.

Further, when the Crisafulli Government came to power, there were numerous other reviews and reports where no government response had been provided by the former Palaszczuk and Miles Governments, this includes reports and reviews relating to:

- Penalties for assaults on public officers.
- Police related deaths and DFV deaths in Queensland.
- Community based sentencing orders, imprisonment and parole options.
- Serious Violent Offences in the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*.
- Civil surveillance and the protection of privacy.
- Neighbourhood disputes.
- Queensland's asset confiscation scheme and serious and organised crime.

Estimates 2026
Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

Currently the government is considering these reports and, where recommendations align with government priority, the government will implement reforms.

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Minister for Integrity

Estimates 2026
Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 11

QUESTION:

Can the Attorney-General advise as at 30 June 2025 and 30 June 2026 (listed separately by date) the number of staff allocated to the processing of blue card applications?

ANSWER:

The protection of children is a key priority for the Crisafulli Government. This Government is committed to taking all actions necessary to minimise risks of harm to children in all settings.

This includes ensuring appropriate staffing levels to provide improved customer services, robust decision-making, and stronger audit and monitoring functions.

Over the last 12 months, this Government has increased Blue Card Services' frontline staffing levels by 2.4%, from 143.1 as at 30 June 2025, to 146.6 as at 30 June 2026.

These frontline staff are responsible for processing and assessing blue card applications, as well as undertaking compliance functions, providing community education and customer service, and leading working with children check reform work.

These critical functions ensure that applicants and organisations understand and comply with blue card requirements, while enabling immediate action to be taken when obligations are not met or concerns about the safety of children arise. This supports the timely and efficient assessment of blue card applications and strengthens the integrity of the blue card system.

In addition, the Crisafulli Government has provided Blue Card Services with an additional 5 FTE in 2026-27 to manage the increased operational workload associated with the introduction of the Reportable Conduct Scheme, which will provide an important new source of information to be considered in determining the eligibility of an individual to be issued or continue to hold a blue card.

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Minister for Integrity

Estimates 2026
Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 12

QUESTION:

Can the Attorney-General advise for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years (listed separately by financial year), the number of blue card applications that took 1-2 days, 3-5 days, 6-10 days, 11-15 days, 16-20 days, 21-30 days, 31-40 days, 41-50 days, 51-75 days, 76-100 days, and 100+ days (listed separately)?

ANSWER:

The *Working with Children Check Act 2000* is protective legislation which warrants a precautionary approach in the assessment of a person's eligibility to hold a blue card, to ensure decisions are made in the best interests of children.

Given this precautionary approach, some applications can take longer to process, as it is imperative that all relevant information is obtained, every applicant is provided with natural justice, and a thorough and robust assessment undertaken to ensure a decision is made in the best interests of children.

Average processing time includes the time taken to receive assessable information from external agencies and any additional information from the applicant, which can be considerable.

In 2024-25, Blue Card Services finalised 280,154 blue card applications, ensuring people have successfully passed a rigorous screening process prior to working with Queensland children.

In 2025-26, this number increased to 330,460, the highest number of blue card applications finalised since inception of the blue card system.

I am advised Blue Card Services timeliness data is reported by average processing times and not by a continuum of days.

I am also advised blue card applications which return no police history or other relevant information are finalised within an average of two business days. In 2024-25, Blue Card Services finalised these applications on average in 1.87 business days and in 2025-26 on average in 1.76 business days.

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Minister for Integrity

Estimates 2026
Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 13

QUESTION:

As the Minister responsible for the Commissions of Inquiry Act 1950, in respect of the Commission of Inquiry into the CFMEU and Misconduct in the Construction Industry (COI) can the Attorney-General advise:

- a. The cost of COI to date
- b. The allocated funds for the COI across the forward estimates
- c. The daily rate paid to Counsel Assisting (broken down by Counsel) or if that is confidential can the Attorney please advise whether Counsel Assisting is being paid at or above the government rate
- d. The daily rate or remuneration to date paid to the Commissioner of the COI
- e. Why Queensland based Counsel were not engaged to assist the COI?

ANSWER:

- a. The Commission of Inquiry was allocated \$20m at its inception for a 12-month inquiry.
- b. As announced on 21 July 2026, the COI has been allocated a further \$75m to extend the work of the Commission, with a final report due on 3 December 2027.
- c. As has been publicly reported, the Commission of Inquiry has been allocated \$95m, however individual rates and commercial terms are treated as confidential.
- d. As has been publicly reported, the Commission of Inquiry has been allocated \$95m, however individual rates and commercial terms are treated as confidential.
- e. The Commission of Inquiry operates independently of government and decisions in relation to Commission staff are a matter for the Commission.

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Minister for Integrity

Estimates 2026
Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 14

QUESTION:

Can the Attorney-General please advise the funding provided to community legal centres across the forward estimates, broken down by organisation and year?

ANSWER:

The Crisafulli Government is proud to deliver a record investment in the legal assistance sector. Over 2025–30, combined State and Commonwealth funding of more than \$1.8 billion will be invested in Queensland’s legal assistance sector – the largest investment in the sector’s history.

Upon coming to government, we stepped in to provide a dedicated funding uplift of \$142 million to the legal assistance sector, after the former government left behind a funding cliff putting frontline community legal services at risk, directly impacting community legal centres, legal aid services and domestic and family violence legal services.

The additional funding provided by the Crisafulli Government was instrumental in securing Commonwealth funding under the National Access to Justice Partnership from July 2025, a requirement under the national agreement.

State funding committed by the Crisafulli Government across the next five-year funding cycle lifts Queensland’s total investment in the sector to \$1.065 billion over 2025-30. This compares to the previous agreement under the former government of only \$735 million.

The Crisafulli Government’s decisive action provided certainty and stability for the legal assistance sector. The Crisafulli Government has ensured the legal assistance sector is able to continue its vital work, helping vulnerable and disadvantaged Queenslanders access critical legal assistance services when they need them most.

This total sector investment of \$1.8 billion includes \$330.7 million to 27 community legal centres across Queensland.

Funding details can be found on the Department of Justice website:

<https://www.justice.qld.gov.au/about-us/services/legal-assistance-strategy-and-funding-unit>.

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Minister for Integrity

Estimates 2026
Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 15

QUESTION:

Can the Attorney-General advise the titles of the roles/positions which will be impacted by the decision not to continue limited life funding or temporary roles for the following areas:

- a. Roles in Courts and Tribunals as outlined on page 10 of the SDS
- b. Roles in Service Delivery and Consumer Protection as outlined on page 10 of the SDS
- c. Roles in the Crime and Corruption Commission as outlined on page 20 of the SDS
- d. Roles in Legal Aid Queensland as outlined on page 27 of the SDS
- e. Role in the Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner as outlined on page 41 of the SDS, and
- f. Roles in the Child Death Review Board as outlined on page 49 of the SDS?

ANSWER:

When the Crisafulli Government came to office, more than 22 per cent of positions across the Department of Justice were temporary and did not have ongoing, permanent funding attached. This included seven magistrate positions that were being funded on a temporary basis, despite judicial appointments being permanent positions.

The Department's workforce profile changes throughout the year to respond to operational needs, government priorities and reform initiatives. This can include the conclusion of time-limited programs, the reallocation of resources to priority areas, the creation of new roles, and staff moving into other positions across the department. The staffing profile published in the Service Delivery Statements provides an indicative position for the 2026-27 financial year and is intended to assist the government and the Director-General in managing resources across the department. The department regularly provides opportunities for staff, including those employed in temporary positions, to transfer into vacant roles where appropriate.

As a result, it would be inaccurate to identify a fixed list of temporary positions, as workforce arrangements continue to evolve in response to service delivery requirements. Additionally, the department has reviewed and restructured parts of its establishment to ensure resources are focused on frontline service delivery and priority activities, which has in some instances moved temporary roles across divisions.

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Minister for Integrity

Estimates 2026
Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 16

QUESTION:

In respect of the Queensland Protection Commission (QPC) outlined on pages 1 and 2 of the SDS, can the Attorney-General advise:

- a. Which government entities or functions will be transferred to the QPC, (b) how many FTEs are allocated to the entities or functions in
- b. As at 30 June 2026
- c. How many FTEs will transition from their existing entities or functions into the new QPC
- d. The cost of operating each of those existing entities or functions in (a) as at 30 June 2026, and
- e. What funding will be allocated for the establishment of the Intelligence Hub?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Protection Commission (QPC) will be responsible for co-located safeguarding functions including the Reportable Conduct Scheme, Child Safe Standards, and Queensland Worker Screening Services, as well as child protection oversight. Subject to Parliamentary processes, the QPC is anticipated to commence from February 2027. The total number of FTE positions to be assigned to the QPC and associated budgets to be transferred will be determined ahead of this commencement.

The Queensland Government response to In Plain Sight: Review into System Responses to Child Sexual Abuse can be found here: <https://www.justice.qld.gov.au/initiatives/qg-response-in-plain-sight-review>.

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Minister for Integrity

Estimates 2026
Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 17

QUESTION:

In respect of page 55 of the SDS which outlines that the Queensland Human Rights Commission has failed to reach its targets in five out of seven measures, particularly those related to the operation of its complaints handling function, can the Attorney-General advise what actions are being taken either by the Attorney-General or the Human Rights Commissioner to address these matters on behalf of Queenslanders?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Human Rights Commission has faced long-running difficulties in achieving its targets since its inception under the former government. As noted on page 19 of the former Labor Government's SDS in their final 2024-25 Budget, the Commission failed six out of seven measures.

The Crisafulli Government is committed to ensuring that Queenslanders are protected by fair, effective and accessible human rights and anti-discrimination frameworks.

To support this commitment, on 11 June 2026, the Government announced an independent review of Queensland's human rights and anti-discrimination framework to evaluate whether current laws and institutions are delivering timely, practical, and efficient outcomes.

Led by the Honourable Peter Flanagan KC, one aspect of the three part review will include a strategic review of the functions and performance of the Queensland Human Rights Commission (QHRC).

The strategic review requires a review of the functions of the QHRC, and an assessment as to whether those functions are being performed economically, effectively and efficiently. This will encompass the QHRC's complaints handling function. Further, the Reviewer is required to examine all structural and operational aspects of the QHRC, including relationships with public sector entities, victims of crime and duty holders under the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991*.

The final report and recommendations are due to be delivered by 31 March 2027.

The Commission has undertaken numerous initiatives to address longstanding backlogs:

- Introduction of triage and priority teams, which continue to resolve a large proportion of complaints received.
- Ongoing funding for the Commission's telephone enquiries service which provides information and directs callers to a more appropriate agency or complaint body if appropriate.
- An early resolution complaints process commenced in 2024 to manage straightforward or single-issue complaints more efficiently.
- A modernised Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system introduced in 2025-26 to support efficiencies in complaint handling.

Estimates 2026
Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

- Ongoing training and professional development for the Enquiries and Dispute Resolution team in conciliation and dispute resolution skills to support the percentage of ADA and HRA complaints resolved by conciliation, also noting these measures are comparable to previous years' results.
- Internal Audit is currently underway of the Enquiries and Dispute Resolution team to assess positive aspects, risks and potential process improvements.

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Minister for Integrity

Estimates 2026
Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 18

QUESTION:

Can the Attorney-General advise, based on the available court data, noting court data and figures were provided by the Director-General of the Department of Justice during the Estimates hearing in 2025, with respect of child defendants and the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years:

- a. The number of finalised appearances by outcome and age of defendant, reported separately by court and separately by month
- b. The number of finalised charges by offence category and subcategory, reported separately by court and separately by month
- c. The number of convicted appearances, by most serious penalty, reported separately by court and separately by month
- d. The number of applications for bail (not count of defendants), based on originating application lodged in the Children's Court of Queensland, reported separately by court location and separately by month?

ANSWER:

Noting court data and figures provided by the Director-General of the Department of Justice during the Estimates hearing in 2025, with respect of child defendants and the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years:

- a. In 2024/25 there were 15,180 finalised defendants (cases) and in 2025/26 there were 14,016 finalised defendants (cases).
- b. In 2024/25 there were 49,418 finalised charges and in 2025/26 there were 44,184 finalised charges.
- c. In 2024/25 there were 13,467 convicted defendants (cases) and in 2025/26 there were 12,306 convicted defendants (cases).
- d. In 2024/25 there were 96 applications for bail and in 2025/26 there were 83 applications for bail lodged in the Children's Court of Queensland.

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Minister for Integrity

Estimates 2026
Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 19

QUESTION:

In relation to the payment of fees above the maximum daily fee cap under the Whole of Government Policy for Barristers undertaking legal work for Queensland Government Departments (the Policy):

- a. How many times in the 2025/26 financial year has the Attorney-General's approval been sought to pay fees above the maximum cap set out in the Policy, and by which Government department or business unit?
- b. In how many of these instances, broken down by Government department or business unit, has the Attorney-General (or an authorised person) approved the payment of fees above the maximum cap set out in the Policy:
 - i. on an on-going basis
 - ii. on a one-off basis.
- c. Is the Attorney-General aware of any instances in which a Government department or business unit has paid fees above the maximum cap without approval under the Policy and, if so, which Government department or business unit made the payment?

ANSWER:

- a. Approval was sought six times to pay fees above the Whole of Government Policy for Barristers undertaking legal work for Queensland Government Departments (the policy) in the 2025/26 financial year. Three requests were received from the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, one request was received from Queensland Treasury and two requests were received from barristers.
- b. The four requests received from government departments were matter specific and were approved. A request received from one barrister undertaking work for the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development was approved on an ongoing basis. Another general request was made by a barrister, unrelated to any specific matter, which was not approved.
- c. No.

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Minister for Integrity

Estimates 2026
Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 20

QUESTION:

For each of the 2024-25 and the 2025-26 financial years:

- a. How many applications for blue cards by prospective kinship carers were refused because of:
 - i. serious offences
 - ii. other reasons
- b. How many negative notices were issued to kinship carers:
 - i. for serious offences
 - ii. for disqualifying offences
 - iii. for other reasons
- c. How many negative notices were issued to adult members of a household in which a person in kinship care resides:
 - i. for serious offences
 - ii. for disqualifying offences
 - iii. for other reasons?

ANSWER:

- a) In 2024-25 and 2025-26, Blue Card Services processed a collective 3,253 blue card applications from prospective kinship carers, and issued 3,130 blue cards.
Out of these 3,253 applications, 36 applications were refused and a negative notice issued.
 - In 2024-25, 14 negative notices were issued:
 - i. 4 because of a serious offence;
 - ii. 0 because of a disqualifying offence; and
 - iii. 10 for other reasons, mostly pertaining to assessable information involving significant drug or domestic violence-related offending or history.
 - In 2025-26, 22 negative notices were issued:
 - i. 3 because of a serious offence;
 - ii. 3 because of a disqualifying offence; and
 - iii. 16 for other reasons, mostly pertaining to assessable information involving significant drug-related or violent offending.
- b) In 2024-25 and 2025-26, Blue Card Services processed a collective 3,437 blue card applications from kinship carers, and issued 3,281 blue cards.
Out of these 3,437 applications, 29 applications were refused and a negative notice issued.
 - In 2024-25, 15 negative notices were issued:
 - i. 2 because of a serious offence;
 - ii. 1 because of a disqualifying offence; and
 - iii. 12 for other reasons, mostly pertaining to assessable information involving significant child protection history and domestic violence-related offending or history.

Estimates 2026
Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

- In 2025-26, 14 negative notices were issued:
 - i. 0 because of a serious offence;
 - ii. 2 because of a disqualifying offence; and
 - iii. 12 for other reasons, mostly pertaining to assessable information involving significant child protection history or drug-related offending.

- c) In 2024-25 and 2025-26, Blue Card Services processed a collective 3,142 blue card applications from adult household members, and issued 2,940 blue cards.
Out of these 3,142 applications, 20 applications were refused and a negative notice issued.
 - In 2024-25, 6 negative notices were issued:
 - i. 0 because of a serious offence;
 - ii. 0 because of a disqualifying offence; and
 - iii. 6 for other reasons, mostly pertaining to assessable information involving significant drug-related offending.
 - In 2025-26, 14 negative notices were issued:
 - i. 2 because of a serious offence;
 - ii. 3 because of a disqualifying offence; and
 - iii. 9 for other reasons, mostly pertaining to assessable information involving significant drug-related offending.