



Speech by

Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Wednesday, 28 October 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Civil and Administrative Tribunal

Hon. CR DICK (Greenslopes—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.53 am): Yesterday I had the pleasure of attending the swearing-in ceremony for a new justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland and the new Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal president, Justice Alan Wilson. Justice Wilson has extensive experience in mediation and alternative dispute resolution which makes him eminently qualified to be the new president of our state's new administrative and review tribunal, which will be known as QCAT. Yesterday's ceremony was a poignant event for many people in the legal profession. As members of this House will be aware, Justice Wilson has been appointed to replace the late Justice Peter Dutney, who tragically passed away suddenly last month.

QCAT represents the most significant structural reform to the Queensland justice system in more than 50 years and is due to start on 1 December this year. It replaces 23 tribunals with a single point of access, making it easier for people with civil matters and disputes to access the support, information and resolution services they need. It makes our justice system more accessible for Queenslanders right across the state, and it will result in a quicker and fairer tribunal system for everyone.

The establishment of QCAT is part of the Bligh government's steps to renovate, reform and modernise our justice system and make it more equitable. We are also embarking on other significant reforms as part of our commitment to a fairer and safer Queensland, such as the establishment of Victim Assist Queensland to help victims of violent crime and the implementation of the recommendations of the Moynihan review concerning the operation of our civil and criminal courts.

The Bligh government's continuing reform agenda is vital for Queensland's justice system. We are moving forward to ensure our system of justice remains relevant—delivering laws that reflect change and growth while maintaining basic principles of fairness in our society. This is part of the Bligh government's ongoing program to make our justice system more accessible, safer and fairer for all Queenslanders.