




Speech by

Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.43 pm): I want to say thank you to the JPs in our communities and across the state. Today I want to raise the issue of training and accreditation that is provided to justices of the peace and commissioners for declarations in Queensland. Previously, community justice advocacy groups such as the Queensland Justices Association—QJA—had the opportunity of providing training courses for JPs and commissioners for declarations applicants in conjunction with the training course provided by the justices of the peace branch of the department. The QJA is a registered training organisation and therefore is qualified to facilitate training accreditation courses.

The Bligh Labor government is centralising the training of JPs and has taken away the ability of community justice groups to offer training services to ensure that our JPs and commissioners for declarations have the option of choice of training and accreditation. These groups are being absolutely taken for granted by a government that is more interested in bureaucracy and revenue raising than in ensuring that optimum best practice is undertaken by our JPs and commissioners for declarations through the provision of a range of training course options. The New South Wales justices of the peace have had to ensure the same level of Labor Party bureaucracy that is more focused on processes than outcomes. The O'Farrell Liberal government now has the task of unscrambling the egg.

The QJA has been in existence since 1918 and currently represents 5,680 members across 29 branches and contact groups in Queensland. It is also the only RTO in Queensland that has been delivering JP training as TAFE ceased offering that course in 2008. Why is the Bligh government more interested in revenue raising and centralising control of training than in providing training options for Queenslanders who want to be a JP or commissioner for declarations? These positions are voluntary positions and the government is driving up the costs for those wishing to assist the justice system in Queensland. It is another shameful example of a government that stands for broken promises, budget blow-outs and poor governance, and our JPs deserve better in their communities.