



Speech By  
**Hon. Jarrod Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 7 May 2014

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Achievements**

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (2.38 pm): In 2012 we promised to build a four-pillar economy. We promised to deal with Labor's \$80 billion debt and we also promised we would revitalise front-line services for families. I am pleased to inform the House about how Queenslanders are reaping the benefits of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General's contribution to the government's renewal program to deliver on the government's commitment to increase access to justice, revitalise front-line services, make Queensland the safest place to raise a family as well as reduce unnecessary red tape for Queenslanders.

I am particularly pleased to report that waiting times for hearing minor disputes before the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal have nearly halved since justices of the peace were enlisted and trained to adjudicate minor civil disputes of up to \$5,000. More than 100 JPs have adjudicated 2,685 matters at the five trial sites across Queensland, applying common-sense solutions to everyday issues, slashing the average time from application to hearing of all QCAT minor civil dispute matters from six weeks to 3.2 weeks. It did not happen by accident.

Family historians now have easy, affordable access to more than 1.3 million digitised birth, death and marriage records which can be downloaded instantly onto home computers, tablets and smartphones for \$20, compared to \$39 previously for a hard copy certificate ordered over the counter. I am proud of the success of the youth boot camp trials, which partners with local organisations to break the cycle of juvenile youth crime. Boot camps across the state have already accepted almost 100 troubled teenagers into the programs, teaching them discipline, respect for themselves and others, as well as giving them the skills that will help them get jobs in the future.

Not-for-profit community organisations have also benefited from abolishing liquor permits at fundraising and community events, saving around 3,600 permit applications compared to the previous year, which represents more than \$250,000 that can be reinvested into our local communities. We are also continuing the reform process by reducing unnecessary red tape in the gaming industry—in particular, community clubs—which will provide benefits for members and local communities more broadly. We have acted on the Commission of Audit recommendation to consolidate and streamline community grant programs for the benefit of our great and hardworking volunteer community groups.

I look forward to continuing our ambitious program for improving the way we support business, delivering our commitment to revitalise front-line services for families and making Queensland the safest place to raise a family. I thank the Hon. Chief Justice this morning for launching with me new technology that will bring the courts into the 21st century. We will introduce legislation tomorrow which will enable judges right around Queensland to have access to expert witnesses without flying the expert witnesses right around Queensland. Only a can-do government can get Queensland back on track and ensure that we remain a great state with great opportunities.