

Question on Notice

No. 185

Asked on Tuesday 27 April 2004

Mr WELLS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Welford) -

QUESTION:

- (1) What is the current number in Queensland of Commissioners for Declarations, Justices of the Peace (Qual) and Justices of the Peace (Magistrates Court)?
- (2) Are there particular regions or electorates where members of Parliament should encourage more citizens to become Justices of the Peace or Commissioners for Declarations?

ANSWER:

- (1) A search of the Justices of the Peace Register indicates the following number of registered Commissioners for Declarations, Justices of the Peace (Qual) and Justices of the Peace (Magistrates Court) in each category since the introduction of the *Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations Act 1991*.

Commissioners for Declarations	17,789
Justices of the Peace (Qualified)	22,668
Justices of the Peace (Magistrates Court)	593

- (2) There are no particular regions or electorates which do not have either Commissioners for Declarations or Justices of the Peace (Qual) available for members of the public to access. A large proportion of Commissioners for Declarations and Justices of the Peace (Qual) reside within the major cities and regional centres across the State.

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General, in conjunction with Westfield Chermside, has recently initiated the "JPs in the Community Program". This program provides for JPs to be available in shopping centres for access by the public. The Department is considering expansion of the program throughout the State in the near future.

I recommend all members of Parliament continue to encourage and support constituents from their electorates seeking appointment to this important community role as either a Commissioner for Declarations or Justice of the Peace.