

## Question on Notice

No. 433

Tuesday, 13 March 2007

**Mrs ATTWOOD** asked the Attorney General and Minister for Justice and Minister assisting the Premier in Western Queensland -

QUESTION:

Will he outline the work of the Public Trust Office and any new services being offered?

ANSWER:

The Public Trust Office was established in 1916 as the Public Curator Office under the *Public Curator Act 1915*. The Office was renamed the Public Trust Office in 1978 with the passing of the *Public Trustee Act 1978*. The Public Trust Office is the largest Trust office in Queensland and the largest Public Trust Office in Australia.

It is and has been self-funding since its inception.

The Public Trust Office has its head office in Brisbane and operates in fourteen regional locations. Remote areas can access services through Queensland Government Agent Program agencies. Its major functions are:

- administering Deceased Estates both testate and intestate;
- managing the affairs of people who through age, illness or other disability are unable to do so themselves;
- free will making;
- free safe custody of wills and important documents;
- preparation of Enduring Powers of Attorney;
- administering trusts for minors and others;
- property services including house and motor vehicle auctions;
- legal and social welfare information on relevant matters;
- administering unclaimed money and property;
- taxation services;
- quasi-judicial functions including the sanction of damages claims for minors and other persons with a disability;
- assisting people in placing titles in order where trusts exist;
- releasing mortgages on behalf of deceased mortgagors or mortgagees who cannot be located;
- executing transfers on behalf of persons who have sold land by contract and who are deceased or cannot be located;
- dealing with assets held by deceased trustees;
- performing statutory obligations under 39 pieces of legislation;

- funding for Common Law Legal Aid (Outlays) Scheme administered jointly with the Legal Aid Office;
- financial and investment management and accounting;
- custodial and Trustee Services;
- performing Community Service Obligations including assisting in funding the Office of the Adult Guardian; and
- providing policy input for new legislation in areas touching on the work of the Office

In recent years The Public Trust Office has actively sought to improve the financial investment options available to clients and has developed enhanced investment products in partnership with QIC.