

Question on Notice

No. 650

Asked on Wednesday , 30 April 2008

Mr WENDT asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister Assisting the Premier in Western Queensland (Mr Shine) -

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise (a) the total number of people in the Ipswich West Electorate in each of the categories of JP (Qualified) and JP Commissioner for Declarations and (b) what services and/or are available to assist them perform their duties?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question and his work to support Justices of the Peace in his electorate.

Justices of the Peace play an important role in our community. These highly-respected volunteers perform a wide range of services from witnessing the signing of documents to hearing certain matters in court.

To support these members the Department of Justice and Attorney-General established the 'JPs in the Community' program.

This program makes Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations more easily accessible through the establishment of signing centres at community locations including shopping centres and court houses. Existing community sites in the Ipswich area are Redbank Plaza, Booval Fair, Orion Springfield, Riverlink Shopping Centre and the Ipswich Magistrates Court.

It is here that Justices can gain valuable experience and expand their knowledge of documents in a community site alongside colleagues.

In addition to publishing material to inform Justices of any legislative changes to assist them in performing their duties, the Department also conducts information and refresher seminars.

The total number of Justices of the Peace in the Ipswich West electorate is as follows;

Justices of the Peace (Qualified)	293
Commissioners for Declarations	177
Justices of the Peace (Commissioner for Declarations)	163
Justices of the Peace (Magistrates Court)	4
Total	637