

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 1381**

**Asked on Tuesday 6 October 2009**

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations (Mr Dick) -

### **QUESTION:**

With reference to charges by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) –

How many charges were (a) discontinued and (b) downgraded or changed in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 to date (each reported separately by DPP office and years)?

### **ANSWER:**

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) is an independent statutory authority charged with the responsibility of prosecuting criminal charges on indictment in Queensland. The ODPP was established on the premise that it be free from the interference of individual or governmental interests. Decisions regarding the prosecution of alleged offenders are based upon a careful assessment of the evidence, the elements required to be established by law and the prosecution guidelines.

Upon consideration of the full brief of evidence, charges may be changed or discontinued in accordance with the Director's Guidelines. The ODPP collects statistics regarding the discontinuance or withdrawal of matters as indicated in the statistics set out below. The ODPP does not collect statistics regarding changes to charges. Specifically, the following data relates to incoming matters and matters that have been discontinued or withdrawn during recent financial years:

During the 2007-08 financial year the ODPP received 7,601 matters and discontinued or withdrew 877 matters.

During the 2008-09 financial year the ODPP received 8,966 matters and discontinued or withdrew 737 matters.

To date during 2009-10, the ODPP has received 2,410 matters and discontinued or withdrew 174 matters.