

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 930**

**Asked on 21 August 2018**

**MS S BOLTON** ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE (HON Y D'ATH) –

### **QUESTION:**

With reference to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) Annual Report 2016-17— Will the Attorney-General advise whether the government plans to increase funding of QCAT in line with their increased caseload to ensure all Queenslanders have access to a method of resolving disputes in a just, quick and inexpensive manner?

### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for Noosa for her question.

The Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) plays a vital role in delivering accessible justice to the community across all corners of Queensland. QCAT was established in December 2009 amalgamating a number of tribunals and jurisdictions to provide a means to deal with matters in a way that is accessible, fair, economic and quick.

Since then, the diversity of jurisdictions and corresponding workloads has continued to grow as QCAT has matured. While I acknowledge the increase in volume, QCAT finalised 29,736 matters with a 96% clearance rate in 2016–17. This is a commendable achievement.

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General has internally reallocated an additional \$530,000 to QCAT in 2018-19 to assist in addressing workloads. The one-off allocation will provide additional funding for Sessional Members and support staff for the Tribunal.

In addition to the increased operational funding, QCAT will also benefit from in excess of \$2 million in capital funding for refurbishment and upgrade to its premises at 259 Queen Street. These works will deliver functional improvements to public facilities, including hearing and mediation rooms, as well as improving the work environment for registry staff, Adjudicators, and Members. The design phase for this project is already well progressed, and construction works across levels 9, 10 and 11 of the tenancy are currently scheduled for completion in mid-2019.

In addition, an organisational review of QCAT is in progress. The outcomes of this review may inform the future funding requirements for QCAT.

I would like to thank the QCAT President, Deputy President, Members, Adjudicators, Justices of the Peace and registry staff for their hard work and dedication in continuing to deliver accessible civil justice.