

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 718**

**Asked on 27 May 2021**

**MR T NICHOLLS** ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND MINISTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE (HON S FENTIMAN) –

### **QUESTION:**

Will the Attorney-General advise for each financial year or part financial year since 2015-16 how many staff have (a) left the Office of the State Coroner and (b) joined the Office?

### **ANSWER:**

Queensland's coronial system has undergone significant reform in response to the 2018 Queensland Audit Office (QAO) report: *Delivering coronial services*.

To support this work, the 2019-20 State budget provided additional funding for coronial services of \$3.9 million over four years, including for eight full-time equivalent positions in the Coroners Court of Queensland (CCQ). A further \$0.963 million was allocated in the 2020-21 budget to continue implementation of reforms through to 30 June 2021.

As part of the 2021-22 Budget, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) has been allocated recurrent funding from 2021-22 and permanent FTE for seven positions in the CCQ, specifically:

- \$0.381 million recurrent funding and three permanent FTEs for the establishment of the second coronial registrar team; and
- \$0.630 million recurrent funding and four permanent FTEs to continue strengthened case management functions.

\$0.143 million and one temporary FTE for the existing AO6 Finance and Contracts Coordinator position was also allocated to the department through the 2021-22 Budget with an evaluation of the role to occur.

These positions ensure long-term sustainability of critical reforms implemented over several years to strengthen Queensland's coronial system.

The Member may be interested to know that the process to fill the second coronial registrar vacancy has also begun with the position being advertised.

The Newman Government cut 507 full time equivalent positions from DJAG. This severely impacted DJAG's ability to deliver front line services to Queenslanders, in particular victims of crime.

A breakdown by financial year and part financial year\* has been provided below:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Movement type (In)</b>	<b>Movement type (Out)</b>
2015-2016	17	11
2016-2017	6	9
2017-2018	19	14
2018-2019	15	19
2019-2020	14	13
2020-2021*	10	10

It is important to note that these figures do not fully reflect the complex nature and requirements of establishment management that ensure service continuation within the Court, particularly the management of fixed term temporary staff, higher duties, and backfilling arrangements, which are not considered formal appointments.