

Question on Notice

No. 852

Asked on 17 June 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 how many magistrates positions remain unfilled as at today's date and at which locations permanent appointments have not been made?

ANSWER:

There are 99 magistrates throughout Queensland and vacancies can arise at any point in time. The Department of Justice and Attorney-General monitors vacancies arising due to magistrates reaching the mandatory retirement age and I endeavour to fill vacancies as quickly as possible.

I am advised that as at 17 June 2021, there were three unfilled magistrates' positions. The Chief Magistrate has the authority to move an existing magistrate to a vacant position resulting in a vacancy in another location. The locations for successful appointees are not always where the vacancy initially occurred. Consultation is undertaken with the Chief Magistrate on the preferred locations for new appointees prior to making a recommendation for appointment to the Governor in Council.

Details of the three unfilled positions as at 17 June 2021 are as follows:

- one vacancy due to a retirement of a Magistrate on 12 May 2021 from the Beenleigh Magistrates Court. The appointee to this vacancy will serve up to one year at the Southport Magistrates Court before moving to the Bundaberg Magistrates Court;
- one vacancy due to the death of a serving Magistrate on 2 June 2021 from the Ipswich Magistrates Court. The appointee will serve in Brisbane until April 2022 before moving to Southport for two years; and
- one vacancy due to a retirement of a Magistrate on 4 June 2021 from the Pine Rivers Magistrates Court. The appointee to this vacancy will serve at the Innisfail Magistrates Court.

In accordance with the *Protocol for Judicial Appointments in Queensland*, expressions of interest have been sought for the above vacancies. These vacancies will be filled as quickly as possible.