

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 1151**

**Asked on 10 October 2023**

**MR J MCDONALD** ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, MINISTER FOR PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE (HON Y D'ATH)

### **QUESTION:**

Will the Attorney-General advise what investment in resources is being made to bring down the timeframes for QCAT decisions for people living in the Lockyer state electorate?

### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for Lockyer for his question.

The Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) resolves disputes and reviews decisions for Queenslanders in an accessible, fair, economical, informal and quick manner. Annually, more than 60,000 Queenslanders access the Tribunal's guardianship, human rights, civil, administrative, disciplinary, and minor civil disputes jurisdictions.

In the Lockyer electorate, minor civil disputes – residential tenancy matters that are lodged at the Gatton Magistrates Courthouse are forwarded to the Ipswich Magistrates Courthouse and heard by QCAT at that location. All other minor civil disputes (e.g. minor debt and fence disputes) are determined by QCAT at the Gatton Magistrates Courthouse. Other matters such as guardianship, tree disputes and building disputes are managed from QCAT Brisbane.

The 2023-24 Queensland Budget has provided additional resources in response to the increasing demand for civil dispute resolution, to ensure all Queenslanders have access to a fair and efficient justice system.

In the 2023-24 Queensland Budget, the Palaszczuk Government provided \$13.4 million over four years and \$1.2 million per annum ongoing for QCAT to assist with increasing demand, wait times and backlogs and deliver an efficient and sustainable civil system for vulnerable Queenslanders.

This is in addition to the Palaszczuk Government's investment in QCAT over the last four years which includes funding to assist with workload pressures associated with increased demands, including the National Disability Insurance Scheme (\$14.37 million); COVID-19 related backlogs (\$8.815 million); Rental Law Reforms (\$3.53 million) and the digitalisation of QCAT to streamline processes which will assist in responding to addressing increasing demand (\$45.6 million allocated to the Courts and Tribunals Digitisation Program).

QCAT will continue to monitor backlogs and demand across the State.