

Question on Notice

No. 312

Asked on 29 March 2023

MR L MILLAR 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 what funding is provided for duty solicitor services for the Magistrates' Courts in Blackall and Winton?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for their question in relation to duty lawyer funding for services in the Blackall or Winton Magistrates Courts.

The 2021-22 Legal Aid Queensland Annual Report noted that Legal Aid Queensland delivered duty lawyer services in 107 Magistrates and Childrens Court locations across Queensland primarily in criminal law, but also in domestic and family violence and child protection jurisdictions.

According to the Magistrates Court Calendar for 2023, published on the Queensland Courts website, the Blackall Magistrates Court sits four times a year and the Winton Magistrates Court sits five times a year. Winton and Blackall Magistrates Court files are held and processed by the Longreach registry and any matters from these Courts that require a hearing date are adjourned to the Longreach Magistrates Court.

Legal advice or assistance at Blackall and Winton Magistrates Court is provided remotely by Legal Aid Queensland in the event that it is necessary or required. A monthly duty lawyer service is provided at Longreach Magistrates Court by Legal Aid Queensland.

Grants of legal aid are also available for Magistrates Court proceedings depending upon whether the applicant is financially eligible and meets merit guidelines.

I trust this information assists the Member.