

Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Minister for Training and Skills

In reply please quote: 3364266

1 4 SEP 2016

Dear Mr Laurie

Mr Neil Laurie The Clerk of the Parliament Parliament House Cnr Alice and George Streets BRISBANE QLD 4000

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Thank you for your letter dated 17 August 2016, regarding petition 2567-16 to government on audio in the public galleries of all open Queensland court proceedings.

Hearing assistance technology is available in at least one courtroom in just over half of the permanently staffed court locations in Queensland. All new courtroom technology installations and upgrades include hearing assistance functionality as a standard. This includes major court upgrades such as to the QEII Courts of Law. Hearing assistance technology will be installed in courtrooms that do not yet have the capability during their next scheduled technology upgrade.

Should a member of the public with hearing impairment wish to access the hearing assistance technology in a capable courtroom, they should contact the Courthouse registry staff. If the technology is available in the courtroom, staff will assist in providing access. Information regarding availability of hearing assistance and the process for requesting access will be made available on the Queensland Courts website.

Should you require further information, please contact Mr Anthony Morrow, Executive Manager, Information and Court Technology, Department of Justice and Attorney-General, on (07) 3006 2108, or at: <u>anthony.morrow@justice.qld.gov.au</u>, who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

with D'ath

YVETTE D'ATH MP Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Minister for Training and Skills