

# About the Parliamentary Service

## Purpose

To serve, support, promote and strengthen the Legislative Assembly to enable it to fulfil its various functions.

## Queensland Parliament

The Legislative Assembly, together with the State Governor, forms the Queensland Parliament. In the Westminster system of government, which Queensland has adopted, Parliament not only is the elected law making body but also determines which political party or parties form the Executive Government. To appoint a Premier and other Ministers, the Governor must be satisfied that the party or parties they represent command a majority of the votes in the Legislative Assembly.

As the Executive Government is ultimately responsible to Parliament, the Assembly has the additional ongoing role of scrutinising the operations of the Executive. Accordingly, Parliament is a public institution of great constitutional importance and is separate from the Executive Government.

## Legislative Assembly

The Queensland Parliament is comprised of only one House, the Legislative Assembly. The Assembly consists of 93 Members who discharge a range of important legislative and constituency responsibilities.

Legislative responsibilities involve participation in parliamentary matters, including the enactment of legislation, privileged debate, scrutiny of government policy and serving on parliamentary committees.

Constituency responsibilities involve Members, as representatives of individual electoral districts, providing advice and assistance to constituents and acting as advocates for local interests.

## Queensland Parliamentary Service

The Parliamentary Service provides administrative and support services to the Legislative Assembly, its committees and Members. The Service comprises staff working within the parliamentary precinct in Brisbane and also in Members' electorate offices across the state. To enhance and emphasise its independence from Executive Government, the Parliamentary Service was established under the *Parliamentary Service Act 1988*.

The Parliamentary Service is distinct from the Public Service. It is not subject to a wide range of legislative, administrative and other requirements which apply in the public sector, although, as a matter of practice, it often voluntarily adopts equivalent standards.

## Our vision

To be the innovative leader in the delivery of parliamentary services in the Westminster world.

## Our values

### Accountability

We are accountable to the institution, our clients, and each other.

### Innovation

We are innovative and strive to create a better future.

### Learning

We shall continually learn and pass on our knowledge.

### Integrity

We are honest, ethical, respectful, independent and professional.

### Clients

We are focused on the needs of our clients.

## Our objectives

The administrative and support services provided within the parliamentary precinct are directed broadly to:

- 1 Support the Legislative Assembly (and its committees and Members) in fulfilling its functions within the institution of Parliament to:
  - make law (and supervise delegated law making)
  - approve and scrutinise the State's finances
  - scrutinise the actions of executive government (and oversight independent bodies), and
  - provide a forum for debate and grievance
- 2 Support Members of the Legislative Assembly in their communication with and representation of constituents.
- 3 Provide information, corporate and facility management services.
- 4 Safeguard, promote and strengthen the important institution of Parliament.