

# Parliamentary Service

## Our business

The function of the Queensland Parliamentary Service is to provide administrative and support services to the Legislative Assembly of Queensland.

### 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 contains only one House, namely, the Legislative Assembly. The Assembly consists of 89 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 Queensland 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 Queensland Parliamentary Service was established under the *Parliamentary Service Act 1988*. Further, as 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.

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

- assisting the work of the Assembly, its committees and Members to fulfil their legislative responsibilities through, for example, Chamber and Procedural Services, Security and Attendant Services, the Committee Office, the Parliamentary Library and the Parliamentary Reporting Service
- the promotion of the institution of Parliament by raising community awareness and understanding through education programs and communication strategies
- providing accommodation and hospitality services for Members, guests and constituents
- providing a range of business services that support Members, their staff and the organisation, including information technology services, human resource services and financial and administrative services.

## Our values

The Queensland Parliamentary Service's corporate values provide the foundation for the organisation's Code of Conduct and guide the decisions and actions of staff. These corporate values fall under three broad categories:

### Independence and integrity

At all times, the Parliamentary Service strives to:

- serve objectively and impartially
- act openly, honestly and reliably
- exercise discretion and respect confidentiality.

### Innovation and diversity

At all times, the Parliamentary Service strives to:

- embrace new ideas and opportunities
- promote diversity of people and thought.

### Commitment and respect

At all times, the Parliamentary Service strives to:

- be committed to the achievement of its goals
- be responsive and customer focused
- respect clients and fellow workers alike
- recognise, value and reward achievement.

## Our goals

The Parliamentary Service Management Plan outlines the goals and strategic issues facing the Parliamentary Service. The four major goals in the plan are:

### Goal 1 – Parliamentary support

To assist the Parliament, its Committees and Members to fulfil their parliamentary responsibilities. See page 13 for full report.

### Goal 2 - Business support

To support the business needs of the Parliament, Committees,

Members, the Parliamentary Service and other clients. See page 19 for full report.

### Goal 3 – Raising community awareness and understanding

To promote the institution of Parliament and raise community awareness and understanding of its

important role and functions. See page 23 for full report.

### Goal 4 - Progression of the Parliamentary Service

To develop and maintain a professional and progressive Parliamentary Service. See page 27 for full report.