

Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel

The Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel (OQPC) supports democracy and delivers on the government’s objectives for the community by providing legislative drafting services to all Queensland public sector agencies and access to legislation on the Queensland legislation website (www.legislation.qld.gov.au).

OQPC was established as a statutory authority under the *Legislative Standards Act 1992* on 1 June 1992. Subject to the Minister, the Premier of Queensland, OQPC is controlled by the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel.

Key achievements for 2016–17

- Delivered the government’s legislative program within required timeframes.
- Drafted national scheme legislation on behalf of the Australasian Parliamentary Counsel’s Committee.
- Publicly launched a preview version of the new Queensland legislation website.
- Hosted the 2016 Parliamentary Counsel’s Committee Australasian Business, Publishing and Information Technology Forum with delegates from all Australian offices of parliamentary counsel, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Singapore.
- Supported the YMCA 2017 Queensland Youth Parliament, including providing assistance with the formatting and supply of eight Youth Bills.

Our performance

The following service standards in DPC’s Service Delivery Statement were used to assess OQPC’s overall performance.

Legislative drafting and e-publishing	Notes	2016–17 target/estimate	2016–17 actual
Service standards			
<i>Effectiveness measure</i>			
Percentage of client satisfaction with legislative drafting services provided by the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel	1	85%	97%
<i>Efficiency measure</i>			
Percentage of client satisfaction with the quality of access to legislation available online	1	85%	97%

Notes:

1. This service standard informs on overall satisfaction levels with the quality, timeliness and support provided by Legislative drafting and e-Publishing and is derived from an annual client survey. Customers are ministers, chiefs of staff, directors-general and their department’s cabinet legislation and liaison officers and senior policy officers.

In addition to the annual departmental client survey, OQPC seeks feedback from instructing agencies on performance in relation to individual drafting projects. Four standard questions are asked and an opportunity is provided for general commentary:

2016–17 survey questions	Results*
How would you rate the quality of the drafting product?	98%
How would you rate the level of service in providing advice on alternative ways of achieving policy outcomes?	98%
How would you rate the level of service in providing advice on the application of Fundamental Legislative Principles?	98%
How would you rate the level of service provided by the drafter during the drafting project?	100%
Average of all four questions	98%

* Percentage of positive responses received.

Future directions for 2017–18

- Continue to provide high quality and timely drafting services to support delivery of the government's legislative program and the Parliament.
- Continue to provide accurate and timely access to legislation to the community on the Queensland legislation website.
- Complete full transition to the new Queensland legislation website, including support for the Queensland Government's open data initiative.
- Implement a range of knowledge management and sharing initiatives including redevelopment of OQPC's intranet.

At a glance, in 2016–17:

484
legislative
instruments
drafted

27,371
total pages
drafted

53
government
Bills drafted

13
private members'
Bills drafted

38
amendments
during
consideration
in detail for
government
Bills, totalling
189 pages

23
amendments
during
consideration
in detail
for private
members' Bills,
totalling
98 pages

316
items
of subordinate
legislation
drafted

815
reprints
of legislation

179,788
total pages
reprinted

102
total other
legislative
publications

6666
total pages of
other legislative
publications

4,695,696
total legislation
web hits

Case study

Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016

The Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 was introduced into the Legislative Assembly on 13 September 2016.

The Bill honoured the government's election commitment in relation to dealing with organised crime and created a new organised crime regime drawing on the recommendations of three reviews commissioned by the government:

- the Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry
- the Taskforce on Organised Crime Legislation
- the statutory review of the *Criminal Organisation Act 2009*.

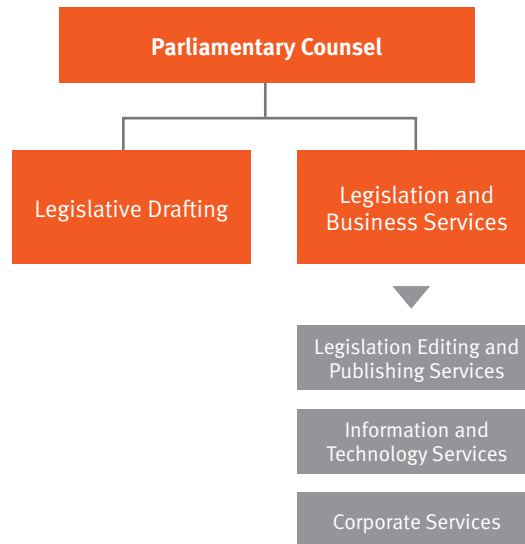
The new regime delivers a comprehensive approach to addressing serious and organised crime across all stages of the criminal justice system with key elements including:

- a new consorting offence
- public safety protection orders consisting of public safety orders, restricted premises orders and fortification removal orders
- extension of the banning of 'colours' to all public places, not just licensed venues
- new offences and increased penalties for child exploitation material offences, sophisticated financial crimes and drug trafficking
- improved powers for police to utilise the new organised crime regime and to investigate and gather evidence of crimes associated with child exploitation and financial crimes.

The drafting of the Bill involved significant collaboration between the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, the Queensland Police Service, Crown Law and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

Organisational structure

The office is located at 111 George Street, Brisbane and all staff work from that location. The current structure is summarised in the organisational chart:



Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel

Strategic Plan 2016–20

Our vision

Committed to excellence in Queensland legislation

Our role

The Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel is the frontline service provider for Queensland legislation, supporting government and democracy through legislative drafting and publishing.

Measures of success

- Premier's satisfaction with performance of the Office
- legislative program delivered on time
- client satisfaction with drafting services
- client satisfaction with quality of access to legislation available online
- enhanced workforce capability and capacity

Our values



Objectives

- draft and publish Queensland legislation of the highest standard
- transform access to Queensland legislation and legislative information through public website enhancements
- maximise our organisational capability and agility

Strategies

To create value and deliver our objectives we will:

- identify and adopt best practice in legislative drafting and publishing
- nurture strategic relationships with clients, stakeholders and partnering entities
- cultivate a high-performing integrated and innovative workforce.

Key priorities for 2016-17

- To work with government agencies to draft and publish legislation that:
 - supports creating jobs and a diverse Queensland economy
 - facilitates delivery of quality frontline services
 - protects the Queensland environment
 - builds a safer, caring and connected community.
- To develop innovative strategies to enhance stakeholder engagement.
- To strengthen our workforce engagement, and fortify our governance systems to emulate best practice methodology and provide quality outcomes and deliverables.
- To enhance the legislation website and streamline legislative drafting and publishing systems and processes.

Risks

- competing expectations among clients and among stakeholders
- ineffective business, technology and information systems
- misaligned organisational capacity and capability

Review date: by 1 July 2017