

Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel

Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel (OQPC) is the Queensland Government’s provider for Queensland legislation, supporting government and democracy through legislative drafting and publishing.

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

Key achievements for 2015–16

- Successfully delivered the government’s legislative program within required timeframes.
- Drafted national scheme legislation on behalf of the Australasian Parliamentary Counsel’s Committee.
- Implemented the full build of OQPC’s new legislative drafting and publishing system (QuLLS) to deliver enhancements to legislative drafting and publishing processes and public access to Queensland legislation.
- Continued the staged publication of *Principles of good legislation: OQPC guide to Fundamental Legislative Principles*.
- Supported the YMCA 2016 Queensland Youth Parliament, including providing assistance with the formatting and supply of eight Youth Bills.
- Invited a broad cross-section of Queensland institutional legislation users to participate in the OQPC Stakeholder Reference Group.

Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel
Strategic Plan 2015–19



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 2015–16

- 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, support wellbeing initiatives, and fortify our governance systems to emulate best practice methodology and provide quality outcomes and deliverables.
- To deliver the eLegislation project to streamline legislative drafting and publishing.

Risks

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



Review date: by 1 July 2016

Our performance

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

| Legislative Drafting and ePublishing | Notes | 2015–16 Target / Estimate | 2015–16 Actual |
|---|-------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Percentage of client satisfaction with legislative drafting services provided by the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel | 1 | 85% | 97% |
| Percentage of client satisfaction with the quality of access to legislation available online | 1 | 85% | 100% |

Note:

1. This service standard informs on overall satisfaction levels with the quality, timeliness and support provided by LDeP and is derived from an annual client survey. Clients are Ministers, Directors-General and their agencies, Cabinet Legislation and Liaison Officers and Senior Policy Officers.

Apart from the annual departmental client survey, OQPC also seeks feedback from instructing agencies on its performance in relation to individual drafting projects. Four standard questions are asked (see below):

| Questions | 2015–16 survey results |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. How would you rate the quality of the drafting product? | 98% |
| 2. How would you rate the level of service in providing advice on alternative ways of achieving policy outcomes? | 97% |
| 3. How would you rate the level of service in providing advice on the application of Fundamental Legislative Principles (FLPs)? | 97% |
| 4. How would you rate the level of service provided by the drafter during the drafting project? | 99% |

Average of all four questions: 98%

In 2015–16 OQPC drafted 420 legislative instruments, totalling 7955 pages and reprinted 704 legislative instruments totalling 120,205 pages.

420 legislative instruments drafted

247 items of subordinate legislation drafted

7955 total pages drafted

704 reprints of legislation

79 government Bills drafted

120,205 total pages reprinted

20 private members' Bills drafted

117 total other legislative publications

46 amendments during consideration in detail for government Bills, totalling 445 pages

4836 total pages of other legislative publications

4,963,934 total legislation web hits

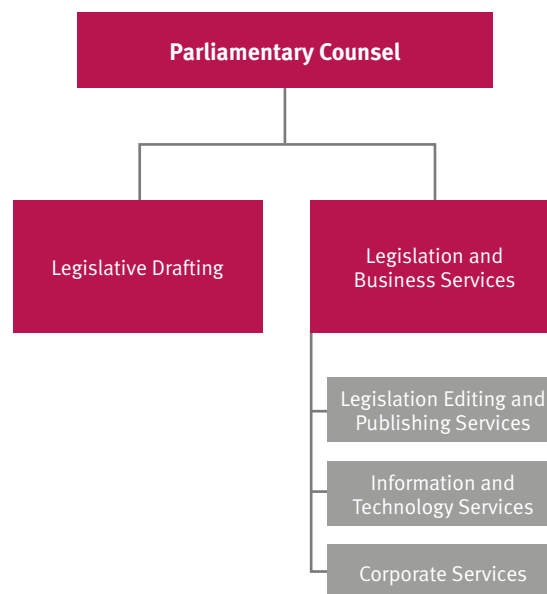
28 amendments during consideration in detail for private members' Bills, totalling 92 pages

Future directions for 2016–17

- Continue to provide high quality, accurate and timely drafting and publishing services to support delivery of the government’s legislative program.
- Launch the new Queensland legislation website.

Organisational structure

The office is located at 111 George Street, Brisbane. The current structure is summarised in the organisational chart below:



Case study eLegislation

In February 2016, OQPC's new legislative drafting and publishing system QuLLS (Queensland Integrated Legislation Lifecycle System) went live. Supply of Bills to Parliament House and the government printer from QuLLS commenced from the first parliamentary sitting in February 2016.

The eLegislation project was commenced to improve public access to Queensland legislation and legislative information and streamline and automate legislation production and publishing processes within OQPC.



QuLLS
Queensland Integrated Legislation Lifecycle System

The project involved:

- implementing specialist legislation database technology to manage drafting and reprint workflows along with web publishing activities
- development of a new legislation website with a range of enhanced features
- conversion of current reprints of Queensland legislation including approximately 980 legislation titles comprising more than 85,000 pages. Additionally, OQPC processed more than 500,000 existing files to enable transfer of content from the old legislation website to the new website.