



About the Council

The Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council is an independent statutory body established under the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*.

The Council:



Provides advice to the Attorney-General about sentencing matters, if asked



Gives information to the community to enhance knowledge of sentencing



Publishes information about sentencing



Researches sentencing matters and publishes the outcomes



Obtains the community's views on sentencing



Provides its views to the Court of Appeal on the giving or reviewing of a guideline judgment, if asked.

Council members

The Council comprises up to 12 members who are appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Attorney-General.

Members are accountable to the community and to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, the Honourable Shannon Fentiman MP.

Members' fields of expertise include legal professionals and community advocates with extensive experience across criminal law, domestic and family violence, victims of crime, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander justice issues and youth justice.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel

Established in 2018, the Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel plays an essential role in assisting us to understand the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Queensland's criminal justice system.

Since its introduction, the Advisory Panel has given a stronger voice to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, helping to build the Council's knowledge

of the implications of sentencing, sharing how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are affected by legal responses, and providing insight and specialised advice into what changes might improve outcomes for First Nations Peoples. The Advisory Panel has up to eight members.

The Secretariat

The Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council is supported by a Secretariat of 11 Department of Justice and Attorney-General employees with expertise in legal policy, research and data analysis, media and community engagement, and administrative services.

Inform. Engage. Advise.

Our [Strategic Plan 2021-22](#) describes our vision for sentencing in Queensland – that it is just, and that the community understands sentencing.

With our purpose and values directing us, our plan outlines how we will engage with and serve the community to achieve our goals.

We proactively look for opportunities to engage with stakeholders and seek their input to our work including Terms of Reference, with the purpose of informing the Council about community views and improving community confidence in sentencing.

We engage with diverse communities, individuals and organisations that have different experiences and knowledge of sentencing and we are committed to placing people at the centre of everything we do.

Our [Stakeholder Engagement Framework](#) guides our interactions and ensures our engagement is meaningful.

Resources

Our engagement is supported online and offline with resources including fact sheets, background papers, electronic newsletters, videos and more to provide consistent, reliable information to the community. These include:

<i>Sentencing Spotlight</i> series	<i>Sentencing @ a glance</i>
<i>Judge for Yourself</i>	Sentencing trends
<i>The Queensland Sentencing Guide</i>	<i>Case in Focus</i>
Education resources for teachers	<i>Doing Justice Differently</i>
<i>Sentencing myths</i> – videos	Sentencing definition video series
	<i>Sentencing Matters</i> podcast series

You can find more information about the Council at www.sentencingcouncil.qld.gov.au.

You can also follow our work on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) or by subscribing to [Inform](#).