



Queensland Sentencing
Advisory Council

2022-23 Annual Report

Accessibility

The report provides detailed information about the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council's non-financial performance for 2022-23.

Information about the Council's financial performance is available in the Department of Justice and Attorney-General's annual report 2022-23 at www.justice.qld.gov.au.

Information about consultancies, overseas travel and the Queensland Language Services Policy is available at the Queensland Government Open Data website (<https://data.qld.gov.au>).

An electronic copy of this report is available at: www.sentencingcouncil.qld.gov.au.



We are committed to providing accessible services to Queenslanders from all culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

If you have difficulty in understanding the annual report, you can contact us by phone on (07) 3738 9499 or free call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 1800 131 450 and we will arrange an interpreter to effectively communicate the report to you.

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Content from this annual report should be attributed as: Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council Annual Report 2022-23.

Feedback

Feedback is important for improving the value of our future reports. We welcome comments, which can be made by contacting us at:

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<https://www.sentencingcouncil.qld.gov.au/>

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

We acknowledge and give our respects to the Traditional Owners and Caretakers of this land, where they have performed age-old ceremonies of storytelling, healing, music, dance and celebration. We would also like to acknowledge and give our respects to Elders, past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, traditions and knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are advised that this publication may contain words, names and descriptions of people who are deceased.

The Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council recognises and prioritises the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to address their disproportionate representation in Queensland's criminal justice system. Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporate artwork, *Overcoming Obstacles*, by Casey Coolwell was commissioned to embody our commitment to understanding the drivers of over-representation in the Queensland criminal justice system. To view the artwork, please visit our [website](#).

Our location

Level 25
State Law Building
50 Ann Street Brisbane
Queensland 4000

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Statement of compliance

30 September 2023

The Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family
Violence
GPO Box 149
Brisbane Qld 4001

Dear Attorney-General

I am pleased to deliver for presentation to the Parliament the Queensland Sentencing
Advisory Council's 2022-23 Annual Report.

I certify this annual report complies with the detailed requirements set out in the *Annual
report requirements for Queensland Government agencies*.

A checklist outlining the annual reporting requirements is provided at page 30 of this annual
report.

Yours sincerely,



Elena Marchetti
Acting Chair
Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council

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Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council

From the Council Chair and Director

It has been an eventful twelve months, with the Council leading the way in publishing research about significant sentencing trends in Queensland.

In August 2022, we released *Engendering justice – the sentencing of women and girls*, a report that gained nationwide attention following its finding of a fourfold increase in the number of women and girls receiving a prison sentence in Queensland over a 14-year period. The findings, which mirror trends both here and overseas that women's imprisonment is on the rise, showed that women sentenced to imprisonment mostly received a prison sentence of less than a year. The most common offences women received a prison sentence for were stealing (10%), breach of bail (8.7%), possession of dangerous drugs (7.1%), fraud (6.8%) and assaults occasioning bodily harm (6.0%).

Concerningly, our report also found Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls 12 years and under were most of the girls sentenced in this cohort (74.6%). This is consistent with previous research findings that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls are more likely to have contact with police and the criminal justice system at an earlier age than non-Indigenous girls.

Our research brief *Sentencing of offences committed by children aged under 14 in Queensland*, published in March 2023, offers timely data-driven insights as Queensland and other states continue to discuss raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility. The brief shows that children aged 10–13 represented less than 10% of all young people (aged 10–17) sentenced between 2005–06 to 2021–22. For children aged 10 and 11, the figure drops to 1.1%. The low numbers in this cohort suggest that alternative responses to sentencing could be considered for these very young children if the minimum age is raised, although we do acknowledge that this must be balanced with the fact that a very small proportion of this cohort are committing very serious offences.

Most recently, we have published findings from our work with focus groups in Townsville, Mount Isa and Brisbane. Our research revealed the Queensland public generally overestimate their sentencing knowledge with several misconceptions clouding their understanding. The findings from this research offer valuable insights that will help inform our future sentencing awareness and educational campaigns.

Within our remit to inform the community about sentencing, this year we launched our new-look website and re-wrote all content in plain English. We extended this plain English approach to re-work our flagship publication, the *Queensland Sentencing Guide*, releasing a new and improved version in March. For those in the criminal justice sector, we also released the first two issues in a new publication series, the *Sentencing Round-Up*, which brings together key legal developments, research, Court of Appeal decisions, judicial speeches and other recent sentencing news in one place.

In May 2023, we received a new Terms of Reference from the former Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, the Honourable Shannon Fentiman MP. We have been asked to consider whether current sentencing practices for sexual assault and rape adequately reflect the seriousness of this offending, and if legislative or other changes are required to ensure appropriate sentences are imposed. We will also explore the impact of the legislated aggravating factor for domestic violence offences on sentences, and whether it is affecting victims' satisfaction with the sentencing process. Work is already well underway on this review, and we would like to express our sincere thanks to those who have taken the time to provide us with preliminary feedback about the issues we need to explore.

In February, we were delighted to have three new, independent voices join our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel, which has now been established permanently. The appointment of Christopher Emzin, Thelma Schwartz and Kevin Williams brings more expertise to an already-strong Panel. We will value their expert advice as we work to understand and address the disproportionately high rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Queensland's criminal justice system.

We have also seen personnel changes at the Council, farewelling Debbie Platz after a brief appointment and welcoming Julie Dick SC and Matt Jackson. Both Julie and Matt bring different professional backgrounds and experiences to the Council and share a common depth of understanding of how

sentencing laws and practices can have impacts across the criminal justice system. We have no doubt they will both make an outstanding contribution to the work of the Council.

The Council's work is supported by highly capable and skilled public servants, who work tirelessly to enable the Council to deliver on its strategic objectives. We are proud of the incredible work the members of the Secretariat produce to support the Council's functions. In January we welcomed a new Director, Ms April Chrzanowski, who brings significant experience in criminal justice policy, evaluation, research and teaching, adding to the multidisciplinary skillset of the secretariat.

We would like to extend a welcome to the new Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, the Hon Yvette D'Ath MP and acknowledge the support of the former Minister, the Hon Shannon Fentiman MP, now Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women.

We look forward to the year ahead. It has been our privilege to serve as the Chair of the Council and Director of the Secretariat.*

John Robertson
Chair

April Chrzanowski
Director

**This is Mr Robertson's last annual report as he stepped down following the 8 August 2023 Council meeting. Below is a personal message from the outgoing Chair:*

I have been the Chair for over five and half years, and in that time, the Council has delivered four reports to the Attorney in response to Terms of Reference, published a large number of significant research papers, and contributed in many ways to inform the community about what is a complex and important focus of public discourse and interest. This includes many speaking engagements across a variety of interested groups, and delivery of many *Judge for Yourself* presentations to school students and a variety of community groups.

I am very proud of what the Council has achieved in that time. I am grateful to the other members of the Council, the members of the Secretariat and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory panel, for teaching me so much and supporting the important work of the Council. I have served with three exceptional directors and I am grateful to each one of them for their support, encouragement and friendship. I will particularly miss my interaction with the staff who have patiently taught me so much about research, policy, media engagement and so much more.

I feel that the Council is in good shape as it embarks on a very important project the subject of our most recent terms of reference.

I also want to mark my gratitude to the legal, victim, police and prosecutorial stakeholders for their support for the Council during my tenure. I am particularly grateful to the various heads of jurisdiction who have given generously of their time to support our work, and the judges and magistrates who have so willingly assisted us in various parts of our work.

John Robertson
Chair 2018-2023

About us

The Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council provides independent research and advice, seeks public views, and promotes community understanding of sentencing matters.

The Council performs an independent role by providing advice on sentencing reform. This has a broader impact on Queensland's criminal justice system.

The Council is an independent statutory body. Established under the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*, the Council's functions are to:

- give the Court of Appeal the Council's views, in writing, about the giving or reviewing of a guideline judgment, if asked
- advise the Attorney-General on matters relating to sentencing, if asked
- give information to the community to enhance knowledge and understanding of matters relating to sentencing
- publish information about sentencing
- research matters about sentencing and publish the outcomes of the research, and
- obtain the community's views on sentencing and sentencing matters.

The Council can have up to 12 members who are appointed by Queensland's Governor in Council.

Members bring a vast array of knowledge to the Council. Expertise includes criminal law, domestic and family violence, victims and survivors of crime and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experiences of sentencing.

The Council works in partnership with members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel.

The Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council is supported by a Secretariat of 11 full-time equivalent (FTE) Department of Justice and Attorney-General employees. Expertise includes research and data analysis, media and community engagement, legal policy and administrative services.

Vision, purpose and values

Our vision

Just sentencing and community understanding.

Our purpose

To inform, engage and advise the community and government about sentencing in Queensland.

Our values

- Evidence-based solutions to justice, fairness and service to the community.
- Respect, promote and enhance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experience and culture.
- Honest, transparent communication and collaboration.
- Diversity, equality, recognition and respect.
- Integrity and confidentiality.

Human Rights

The Council continued its work to ensure compatibility with the *Human Rights Act 2019* during the 2022–23 period. We are committed to ensuring all the Council's strategies and activities respect, protect and promote human rights.

Response to the Queensland Government's objectives for the community

Our strategic objectives support the Government's objectives for the community of delivering even **better services** across Queensland and **keeping Queenslanders safe**.

Strategic objectives and performance indicators

This annual report outlines the Council's achievements in line with its 2022–23 Strategic Plan under the three pillars of inform, engage and advise.

Inform

Promote community understanding of sentencing

Deliver well-designed and innovative sentencing products and make them accessible

Website

A key deliverable in the 2022–23 financial year was to refresh the Council's website.

We reviewed every page of content, rewriting it in plain English. The website was rebuilt in a fully responsive template with a fresh look and feel, making it easier to navigate for people looking at the website on a mobile phone. The website went live in December 2022.

In April 2023, we carried out User Acceptance Testing on the website. We are currently updating the website based on this user feedback and will carry out more User Acceptance Testing in the coming months.

In 2022–23, the Council website received 53,547 unique web page views.

Sentencing Guide

In March 2023, the Council released a new version of its flagship publication the *Queensland Sentencing Guide*. The guide explains how Queensland courts sentence.

We completely redesigned the guide, reviewed all content for accuracy and rewrote copy in plain English.

The new version of the Sentencing Guide has been downloaded 1,251 times since its release.

Sentencing Profile - Engendering Justice

The *Sentencing Profiles* series addresses a gap in publicly available information and in-depth analysis of sentencing outcomes for different groups in the criminal justice system.

This series investigates sentencing trends and

patterns for specific groups of people in Queensland.

Each report provides context, a statistical overview of the demographic characteristics of individuals and the cases sentenced, as well as the distribution of penalties imposed using data from the Queensland courts database.

In August 2022, the Council released the fourth report in its *Sentencing Profiles* series.

Engendering justice – the sentencing of women and girls revealed that the number of women receiving a prison sentence has quadrupled since 2005.

The *Sentencing Profiles* series is available to read and download for free on our [website](#).

Engendering justice – the sentencing of women and girls has been downloaded 378 times.

Sentencing trends

The Council published sentencing trends data on its website in September 2022 looking at cases sentenced in Queensland's criminal courts in 2021–22.

The interactive graphs show sentencing trends by court level, offence types, and penalties between 2005–06 and 2021–22. This webpage has been viewed 1,079 times since published.

Sentencing Spotlights

In October 2022, the Council published two new Sentencing Spotlight reports, shining a light on the offences of rape and maintaining an unlawful sexual relationship with a child.

The spotlights report on cases sentenced between 2005–06 and 2020–21, involving 2,222 offenders sentenced for rape in Queensland, and 900 offenders sentenced for maintaining an unlawful sexual relationship with a child.

The reports, available for free on our website, are the latest releases in our *Sentencing Spotlight* series which presents Queensland-specific data on sentencing outcomes for a variety of different offences.

Sentencing Round-up

In early 2023, the Council launched a new publication series, *Sentencing Round-up*, to collate Queensland's latest sentencing news in one handy place.

Content includes recent speeches by the Queensland judiciary, relevant Bills, legislative amendments, cases of interest, current sentencing commentary and more.

The *Sentencing Round-up* is published every quarter and is available on the Council website.

Inform newsletter

Our *Inform* e-newsletter is one of our main communication channels. In 2022–23, we published seven issues promoting the Council's work, research and upcoming events. Our open rates are over 50%.

The newsletter had 104 new readers subscribed in this financial year.

Collaborate with key partners to progress dialogue and understanding on key issues

Progressing sentencing dialogue and research

The Council's research and work was cited 16 times in journal articles, non-government publications, submissions to inquiries, government publications and parliamentary reports. A full list of citations can be found on page 28 of the report.

Minimum age of criminal responsibility webinar

In March 2023, the Council hosted a webinar to share the key findings from the research brief *Sentencing of offences committed by children aged under 14 in Queensland*. Fifty-seven professionals from law, academic and government organisations attended the webinar.

The Council Chair presented the key findings of the report to the Attorney-General to help inform the ongoing national cross-jurisdictional discussions about raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility.

Scan the environment for emerging and contentious sentencing issues and determine appropriate responses

We actively monitor the media and sentencing environment and engage with criminal justice agencies, legal stakeholders, victims and survivors, and their families and the community to understand and respond to emerging sentencing issues.

In March 2023, the Council released a new report *Sentencing of offences committed by children aged under 14 in Queensland*. The report examines the sentencing of children aged 10–13 between 2005–06 to 2021–22.

The report provides timely data-driven insights as Queensland and other states discuss raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility.

Promote our role as a sentencing commentator

Engendering justice event

The Council hosted a free event to promote the release of the *Engendering Justice* report. This was the first Council event to be livestreamed and open to the public. The event was full with 170 people attending in person and 273 joining online.

The event featured a keynote address by the Honourable Margaret McMurdo AC and an expert panel.

Media coverage

We recognise the impact sentencing has on the community and our role in promoting and supporting broader sentencing commentary in Queensland.

This year, the Council secured proactive media coverage for the release of the following publications/data:

- *Engendering Justice* report (national coverage, over 100 outlets)
- *Sentencing of offences committed by children aged under 14 in Queensland* (all key daily outlets in Queensland)
- *Sentencing Trends* (*The Courier Mail*)
- *Sentencing Spotlight* on rape (*The Courier Mail*).

Council sentencing data about women, children and the offence of unlawful stalking has also been quoted in other media stories.

We have also received coverage in industry-specific publications.

Engage

Engage effectively to gather views on sentencing

Deliver an engagement strategy, inclusive of regional and remote Queensland

Judge for Yourself

The Council's foundational community engagement program, *Judge for Yourself*, aims to raise awareness about the sentencing process and promote a better understanding of sentencing in the community.

In 2022–23, we presented 23 face-to-face and online *Judge for Yourself* sessions to schools and community groups in Queensland, and the online version of the program available on the Council website received nearly 6000 interactions.

Our *Judge for Yourself* teacher resources were downloaded 389 times and helped step teachers through how to conduct a *Judge for Yourself* session with their class over two lessons and provide learning exercises using legal principles from each court case.

We have started work to repurpose *Judge for Yourself* as a series of shorter interactive videos suitable for social media. This work will be completed in the next financial year.

Understanding community views on sentencing

In June 2023, we released a research brief *Understanding of sentencing: Community knowledge of sentencing terms and outcomes*.

The brief outlines the key findings from our focus group research with people from Mt Isa, Townsville and Brisbane.

The brief delves into what the Queensland public know and think about sentencing. It also reveals some common misconceptions and knowledge gaps.

Our findings show improving the community's understanding of sentencing will enhance confidence in the criminal justice system.

Social media

The Council does not have a large following on Facebook, so this year, we have continued to run mini campaigns on Facebook targeting the general Queensland community.

Using this approach, we have achieved a reach of thousands and increasing levels of engagement with our simple videos.

- *Engendering Justice* — 600 video views, 76,266 reach, 6,195 page engagements
- *Judge for Yourself* — 3,192 video views, 24,855 reach, 5,503 clicks
- *Sentencing Trends* — 518 video views, 6,094 reach, 913 clicks (general targeting)
- *Sentencing Guide* — 559 video views, 8,638 reach, 164 clicks
- *Sentencing children under 14* — 1,118 views, 18,360 reach, 3,287 clicks

On Twitter, we have introduced commentary explaining sentencing relating to topical news stories. We have 960 followers on Twitter.

Strengthen stakeholder networks to enhance our work

Research Consultative Forum

This year, we established a dedicated Research Consultative Forum to engage with researchers and academics working on sentencing and other criminal justice issues. We met with the forum twice, and members were able to share their knowledge and expertise, widen the reach of their research, connect with other researchers and academics in the field, and be involved in the Council's work.

Practitioner Consultative Forum

We also met twice with our Practitioner Consultative Forum, engaging with representatives from the judiciary, legal profession and key government agencies, to share information and discuss sentencing issues.

Annual feedback from stakeholders

Our annual reputational survey provides insights into how our stakeholders view the credibility of our work, its relevance and how well we inform the community about sentencing through research and education.

This year, there were 68 responses to the survey, including from community members, teachers, representatives of government agencies, and legal and academic stakeholders.

Results showed 92% of respondents agreed that

the Council took stakeholder input seriously and 72% agreed that the Council gave the community a voice in sentencing reform.

Work collaboratively with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel

During 2022–23, our Advisory Panel has provided advice on content and scripting for a series of animations about key sentencing terms relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The Panel has also provided critical insights around some of the findings of our research surrounding the sentencing of children under the age of 14, and the sentencing of women and girls, particularly as they relate to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their communities.

Advise

Provide evidence-based advice on sentencing

Respond effectively and professionally to all Terms of Reference

Sentencing sexual violence and aggravating factor for domestic violence

On 17 May 2023, the Council received Terms of Reference from the former Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, the Honourable Shannon Fentiman MP asking us to review aspects of sexual and domestic violence sentencing.

The Terms of Reference ask the Council to investigate and report on two aspects of sentencing under the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992* (PSA):

1. sentencing for rape and sexual assault offences ('sentencing for sexual violence offences'); and
2. the operation and efficacy of the aggravating factor for domestic violence offences under section 9(10A) of the PSA ('domestic violence as an aggravating factor').

The Council is also to consider how sentencing trends and outcomes for contravention of a domestic violence order may have changed following the 2015 increase to the maximum penalties following amendments made by the *Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Act 2015* to the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012*.

We will complete this work in two stages.

We will review sentencing of sexual violence offences and deliver a final report to the Attorney-General by 16 September 2024.

We will review the aggravating factor for domestic violence offences at the same time and deliver a final report to the Attorney-General by 30 September 2025.

Stakeholder consultation

Since 26 May 2023, the Council has contacted over 380 key stakeholders, including victim support and advocacy groups, asking for preliminary feedback about the issues we should explore as part of our review.

Terms of Reference – Project Initiation

In commencing our review, the Council has appointed a Project Board and developed a project plan and supporting strategies.

Literature reviews in relation to both aspects of the reference have been commissioned, the various research projects have been scoped, and preliminary stakeholder meetings have begun.

The analysis of courts sentencing data in relation to sentencing of rape and sexual assault has commenced, along with preliminary legal research and analysis.

Previous reviews and recommendations accepted

The Queensland Government is still considering recommendations from the Council's most recently completed Terms of Reference review on the serious violent offences (SVO) scheme delivered in May 2022.

The government has committed to legislate to give effect to all recommendations contained in the Council's *Penalties for Assaults on Public Officers: Final Report* delivered in August 2020 as one of its 2020 government election commitments.

In its 2019 report on *Community-based Sentencing Orders, Imprisonment and Parole Options*, the Council made 74 recommendations, including the introduction of a new type of sentencing order known as a community correction order.

The Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce in its second and final report *Hear her voice – Report Two – Women and girls' experiences across the criminal justice system* released on 1 July 2022, recommended that the Queensland Government respond to and implement the recommendations made in the Council's 2019 report.

In supporting the Council's earlier recommendations, it specifically referred to: 'the need to expand suitable, gender-specific services that support women being sentenced to community-based orders rather than short periods of imprisonment' (recommendation 127).

This reflected the Taskforce's focus on the experiences of women and girls in contact with the justice system.

In its response to this report, the Queensland Government provided its in-principle support for

the Taskforce's recommendation, noting it was considering the Council's report as part of the work of the Criminal Justice Innovation Office.

The Criminal Justice Innovation Office, established within the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, commenced operation this financial year.

Participate in initiatives across the criminal justice system to advise about sentencing

In 2022–23, the Council met with key members of the judiciary to share information about the Council's work and had regular officer-level meetings with Magistrates Courts Service and the Supreme, District and Land Courts Service to share information.

The Council continued to provide information and advice across the CJS by:

- Contributing to the work of the Key Users Reference Group of the Supreme Court Library.
- Participating in the Crime Research and Evaluation Network, a government stakeholder group focusing on criminal justice research and evaluation activities.
- Participating in the Streamlining the Criminal Justice System Committee meetings.
- Participating in the Queensland Law Society annual symposium, in March 2023 presenting on our research into the sentencing of children under the age of 14 as part of a panel session on raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility.

Provide views to the Court of Appeal, if asked, about guideline judgments

The Council was not asked by the Court of Appeal to give advice on a guideline judgment during the 2022–23 financial year. However, there is an agreed upon process for responding to such a request, should one be made in the future.

Opportunities and challenges

We recognise the opportunities and challenges we face when delivering our Strategic Plan.

Access to data

The Council does not have direct access to, or control over, Queensland criminal justice data. We rely on other agencies to provide relevant data to undertake our statutory functions.

We are fortunate to have developed strong relationships with relevant agencies to ensure data is used and interpreted correctly and appropriately.

We acknowledge other agencies are impacted by their own resource constraints and supporting our requests for data can be challenging. The data provided by our partner agencies does not always capture all the information required for the Council's purposes. This presents an additional challenge to access alternative information sources.

Secretariat staff invest a significant amount of time and skill into integrating and cleaning data.

Community knowledge about sentencing

This financial year, the Council evaluated the findings of its focus group research on community understanding of sentencing (in June 2022 spoke to 66 focus group participants in Mt Isa, Townsville and Brisbane).

We found participants generally overestimate their sentencing knowledge with several misconceptions clouding their understanding, including local crime trends and what is shown in the media.

The Council is using the findings of this research to develop new information campaigns, prioritise using plain English for community information, and remains committed to increasing public knowledge and understanding of sentencing.

Geographical scale

The geographical scale and decentralised population of Queensland makes it challenging to engage with the broader community.

Some Council and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel members are from regional centres. This helps us to better our understanding of community views of sentencing in regional and remote areas.

Digital content, including social media and video content, has a state-wide reach. We are continuing to build our library of these resources.

Council and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel membership

One of the strengths of the Council and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel is their diversity and experience. This year, the Panel was permanently established, with three new members joining.

Our Panel members come from a wide range of professional backgrounds, and all contribute their unique experiences and perspectives to enrich the Council's work.

The Council highly values the expertise of members of the Panel, who provide valuable insights into the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with the sentencing process.

Attracting and retaining skilled Secretariat staff

The Council is fortunate to be supported by such a talented and skilled Secretariat.

The unique nature of the Council's work relies on specialist skills — research and statistical analysis, legal policy and media and community engagement — that are challenging to attract, recruit and retain.

Plans and priorities for 2023–24

The Council will develop its strategic plan for 2023–24 following the appointment of the new Chair.

Current planned priorities include:

Responding to the Terms of Reference

The final report on the first part of the Terms of Reference on sentencing practices for sexual assault and rape is due to the Attorney in September 2024. The final report on the second part of the review focussing on domestic and family violence as an aggravating factor is due to be delivered to the Attorney-General in September 2025.

Over the next financial year, the Council intends to complete a considerable amount of work relevant to both parts of the reference.

By 30 June next year, the Council plans to have released:

- Background papers on both aspects of the Terms of Reference
- Literature reviews on both aspects of the Terms of Reference
- *Sentencing Spotlights* on both rape and sexual assault
- A consultation paper in relation to sentencing of sexual assault and rape in response to which we will invite submissions.

Work undertaken by the Council will also include:

- Preliminary legal research and analysis into sentencing for rape and sexual assault
- A thematic analysis of sentencing submissions and sentencing remarks from cases involving rape and sexual assault
- Undertaking stakeholder/subject matter expert interviews in relation to both aspects of the review – which will specifically canvas the views of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Undertaking a research project exploring

community views regarding the perceived seriousness of rape and sexual assault offences

- Undertaking a research project to understand victim/survivor views in relation to the impact of domestic and family violence as an aggravating factor in sentencing.
- Commencing an analysis of court sentencing data relating to the contravention of a domestic violence order and sentencing where domestic and family violence is an aggravating factor.

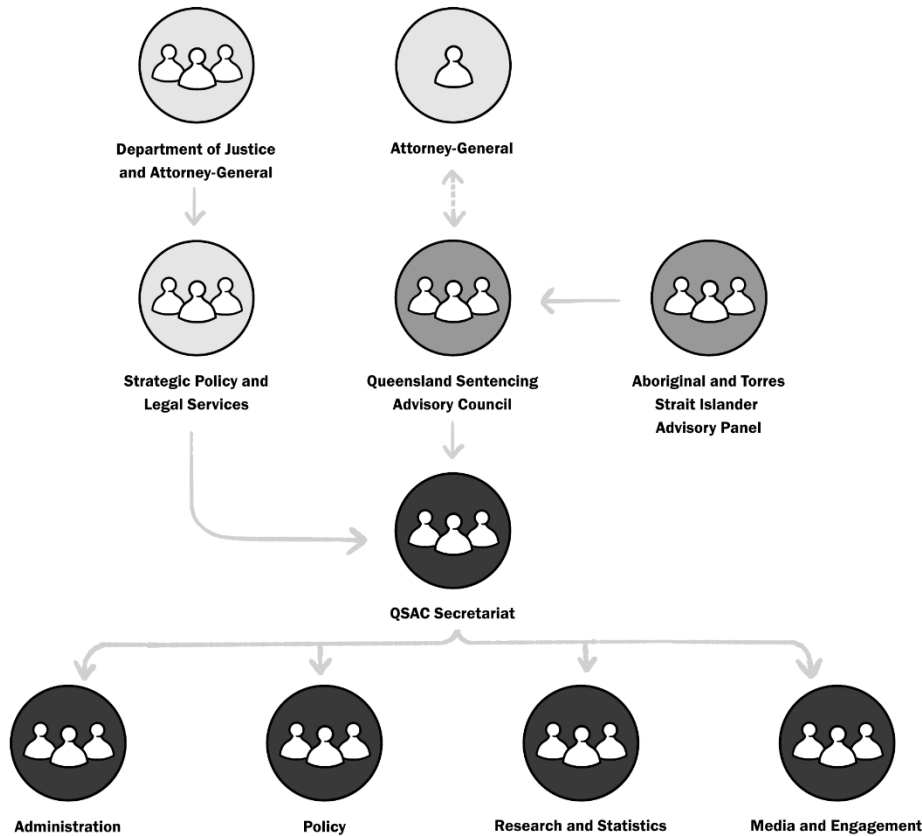
As we progress our review, we also plan to host community summit events to discuss both aspects of our review, and online webinars to share our key findings.

Additional priorities of the Council

- Undertake a review of the *Sentencing Guide for Children in Queensland*
- Release additional policy and research papers on:
 - domestic and family violence as a mitigating factor in sentencing
 - sentencing practices for the offence of choking, suffocation and strangulation in a domestic setting (*Criminal Code* s 315A).
- Develop a series of animated explainer videos for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Develop a suite of sentencing literacy videos
- Create a series of short, interactive videos to complement the current *Judge for Yourself* program for use on social media
- Continue to update our website, adding a specific section for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander users; and an enhanced publications portal.

Our people

The Council



Appointed by the Governor in Council on recommendation by the Attorney-General, the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council comprises up to 12 independent members. Members are appointed for up to three years.

In July 2022, Ms Cheryl Scanlon APM and Ms Helen Watkins stepped down as Council members at the end of that 3-year term.

Assistant Commissioner Debbie Platz APM, of the QPS, was appointed to the Council on 4 August 2022. Ms Platz resigned from the Council on 28 March 2023 after moving interstate.

In January 2023, the Council welcomed new members Julie Dick SC and Mr Matt Jackson.

Katarina Prskalo was Acting Judge of the District Court from 30 May 2022 to 4 October 2022, pausing her work with the Council during this period.

Members of the Council are appointed in their private capacity based on their expertise and

experience in a number of areas relevant to the Council's functions, including supporting victims and survivors of crime, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander justice matters, domestic and family violence, law enforcement, criminal prosecutions and defence, civil liberties and youth justice.

The Council is responsible for setting its strategic direction, which includes:

- developing, approving and periodically reviewing the strategic plan
- approving the Council's research agenda and community engagement plan each year
- setting key performance indicators
- decision-making in relation to significant strategic initiatives
- oversight of risk management for key projects, and
- oversight of the Council's budget and key budget decisions based on its work priorities.

Individual Council members also nominate to assume additional responsibilities on Project Boards, playing an important governance role on key Council projects, such as responding to Terms of Reference projects. The role of Project Board members is to monitor the progress of projects, manage risks, make key decisions about the Council's approach, and support Secretariat staff in undertaking project activities.

Code of Conduct

In compliance with the *Public Sector Ethics Act 1994*, the Council has adopted its own Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct applies at all times when a member is performing official duties, including when a member is representing the Council at conferences or training events, or at work-related social events.

Misconduct, conflicts of interest and other such matters are dealt with in accordance with procedures as required by the Queensland

Government. The Council's Code of Conduct is available via the Council's website.

Council Operating Guidelines

The Council has adopted a set of guidelines that form a key part of its governance framework. These address key operational issues such as roles and relationships, meeting conventions and arrangements, financial management, confidentiality, declaration of interests and managing disputes or conflicts.

Meetings and remuneration

The Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council met 11 times between July 2022 and June 2023.

Council members are remunerated in accordance with the Queensland Government's *Remuneration procedures for part-time chairs, and members of government bodies policy*.

Name	Position	Attendance	Approved annual fee	Actual fees received	Out of pocket expenses
John Robertson	Chair	10	\$6,240	\$6,048.00	\$858.64
Elena Marchetti	Deputy Chair, Project Sponsor for ToR	10	\$4,800	\$4,652.42	
Jo Bryant	Member	10	\$4,800	\$4,652.42	
Julie Dick	Member, Project Board Member for ToR	5	\$4,800	\$2,049.28	
Matt Jackson	Member, Project Board Member for ToR	5	\$4,800	\$2,049.28	
Debbie Kilroy OAM	Member, Project Board Member for ToR	7	\$4,800	\$4,652.42	
Boneta-Marie Mabo	Member, Project Board Member for ToR	4	\$4,800	\$4,467.80	
Philip McCarthy QC*	Member	8	n/a		
Debbie Platz*	Member	3	n/a		
Katarina Prskalo*	Member	5	n/a		
Dan Rogers	Member	9	\$4,800	\$4,652.42	
Cheryl Scanlon APM*	Member	1	n/a		
Warren Strange	Member	9	\$4,800	\$4,652.42	
Helen Watkins	Member	1	\$4,800	\$184.62	
TOTALS			\$49,440	\$38,011.08	\$858.64

* Public sector employees who are not paid fees unless approved by the government.

Council Membership¹

John Robertson, Council Chair

John was admitted as a solicitor in 1973 and formed his own firm in 1978, which ultimately became Robertson O’Gorman. He was Deputy President of the Queensland Community Corrections Board from 1991–1994. In 1994, he was appointed as a District Court Judge. He served in Ipswich, Brisbane and for the last 16 years leading to retirement in 2018, at Maroochydore. He was a Judge of the Childrens Court of Queensland for his whole judicial career and President of that Court from 1999–2001. Throughout his career, he has written and lectured extensively on issues relating to sentencing and the criminal law, including restorative justice, sentencing law, advocacy and the criminal law and the media. He is the author of the *Queensland Sentencing Manual* which was first published in 1999. He is presently a part-time judicial member in the Misconduct Division of the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Professor Elena Marchetti, Deputy Chair

Elena is a Professor and the Deputy Head of School (Research) at Griffith Law School, Griffith University, where she researches in the areas of criminal law, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the justice system and domestic and family violence. Elena has received two large Australian Research Council Fellowship grants to conduct research into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sentencing courts and partner violence, and more appropriate ways to evaluate Indigenous-focused criminal justice processes. Elena is currently researching the use of Indigenous Justice Reports in criminal sentencing hearings. She is a Queensland Patron of the Justice Reform Initiative and is on the editorial board of the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology*.

Jo Bryant

Jo is currently working in the Aged Care sector after a lengthy career in child protection. She remains as a Board Member of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. From 2019–2021 she was employed as the Regional Visiting Manager Sunshine Coast, Community Visitor Program, Office of the Public Guardian, managing a team of local Community Visitors and advocating on behalf of vulnerable children and young people in care and adults with impaired capacity.

She was the CEO of Protect All Children Today Inc., from September 2004 to July 2019, a not-for-profit organisation that supports children and young people aged 3–17 required to give evidence in criminal court hearings as victims or witnesses to crime. Jo has consistently advocated for vulnerable people’s rights and facilitated change through evidence-based feedback.

Julie Dick SC

Julie was a sitting judge of the District Court of Queensland for more than two decades. She was first appointed to the District Court in 2000 and served as a Judge of the Childrens Court of Queensland from 2001 and as the President of the Childrens Court of Queensland from 2007 to 2010. She was also appointed as an acting judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland from 2011 to 2012. Julie also co-chairs the Forensic Science Queensland’s new interim advisory board and has been leading a review of Queensland’s serious and organised crime laws. She was also recently appointed as a sessional member of QCAT.

Matt Jackson

Matt is a barrister who practises in criminal and regulatory law. He was admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 2016, as a Solicitor of the High Court of Australia in 2018 and as a Barrister for the Supreme Court of Queensland in 2018. In 2020, he was awarded a Master of Laws from QUT, with his thesis considering how sentencing reforms for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples might operate alongside the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* (Cth) which establishes a right to equality before the law. Matt also has an interest in human rights and discrimination law.

Debbie Kilroy OAM

Debbie was first criminalised at the age of 13 and spent over two decades in and out of women’s and children’s prisons. Driven to end the criminalisation and imprisonment of girls and women, Debbie established Sisters Inside, as well as her law firm, Kilroy & Callaghan Lawyers. An unapologetic abolitionist, Debbie’s activism work centres on dismantling the Prison Industrial Complex and all forms of carceral control and exile. With a firm belief that there should be ‘nothing about us without us’, Debbie established the National Network of Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls to centre the voices, experiences and aspirations of criminalised and imprisoned women and girls in order to change the face of justice in this country.

¹ Biographies are provided by the individual and do not reflect the views of the Council.

Boneta-Marie Mabo

Boneta-Marie is a Meriam (Torres Strait Islands), Munbarra (Palm Island) and South Sea Islander woman, a prison abolitionist and an award-winning artist. Boneta-Marie is the State Youth Programs Manager at Sisters Inside where she has worked for 13 years. Sisters Inside is an independent community organisation, which exists to advocate for the human rights of women and girls in the criminal legal system. Most of Boneta-Marie's professional career has been supporting criminalised and imprisoned girls. Boneta-Marie is a member of the Justice Policy Partnerships under the Coalition of Peaks addressing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander justice policy for the government's National Agreement on Closing the Gap. Boneta-Marie is also a member of The Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc a peak community youth affairs body in Queensland, representing individuals and organisations from Queensland's youth sector.

Phillip McCarthy KC

Philip was recognised as a leader within the legal profession through his appointment as Queen's Counsel in December 2019, having been first called to the Bar in 1997. Philip was appointed as the Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Queensland in 2021. Prior to this, he was a Consultant Crown Prosecutor with the Office of the DPP. He has extensive experience in criminal law and has worked on numerous complex and sensitive legal matters including homicide, sexual crimes, fraud and official corruption. Philip is a member of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. Philip holds academic qualifications in Law and Science and is considered a valued mentor to aspiring legal professionals.

Debbie Platz

During her time at the Council, Debbie was the Assistant Commissioner Security & Counter-Terrorism Command for Queensland Police Service (QPS), supporting Queensland's current and future counter-terrorism needs. After enjoying a 30-year career with the QPS, in 2017 Debbie joined the Australian Federal Police as Assistant Commissioner Crime Operations where she was responsible for coordinating a collaborative national response for the development and delivery of the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation.

Katarina Prskalo KC

Katarina is the Deputy Public Defender at Legal Aid Queensland. She studied law at the Queensland University of Technology. Katarina was admitted as a solicitor in 1997 and has practised exclusively in the criminal law since 1998. She was admitted as a barrister in 2004 and entered the High Court Register of Practitioners in 2011. She has extensive experience as counsel across all criminal law jurisdictions, including the Mental Health Court and the Court of Appeal. Katarina was appointed an Acting Judge of the District Court from 30 May 2022 to 4 October 2022.

Dan Rogers

Dan is Principal at private criminal defence firm Robertson O'Gorman Solicitors. He is a Queensland Law Society accredited criminal law specialist and represents clients as a solicitor-advocate in all court levels across Queensland. He is published in various legal texts and journals on criminal law and human rights. Dan is also President of the Caxton Community Legal Centre, an organisation that supports vulnerable people facing the criminal justice system. Dan is a member of the Queensland Law Society Ethics Committee and is the Chair of the Queensland Law Society Human Rights and Public Law Committee.

Warren Strange

Warren is the Chief Executive Officer of knowmore, a national community legal centre assisting victims and survivors of child abuse with their redress and justice options. knowmore also helps people who are applying to the Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme. More than 33% of knowmore's clients identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. In this, and other previous roles including as the Director of Criminal Law at Legal Aid Queensland from 2004–2010, Warren has considerable experience working with client groups experiencing vulnerability and disadvantage, including youth and homeless people. Prior to joining knowmore Warren was the Assistant Commissioner, Misconduct at the Crime and Misconduct Commission (as it was then known).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel comprises up to eight independent members who provide expert advice to the Council as we work to understand and address the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Queensland's criminal justice system.

The Advisory Panel is designed to give a stronger voice to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, a better sense of how Queensland communities are affected by current sentencing, and insight into what changes might be made to improve outcomes.

The Panel was launched in November 2018 as a pilot and became permanent this financial year. It meets bimonthly.

February 2023 saw three additional members appointed to the Panel – Christopher Emzin, Thelma Schwartz and Professor Kevin Williams.

Raymond Harrison stepped down from the Panel in July 2022.

Code of Conduct

The Panel has adopted the Council's Code of Conduct, which applies when a member is performing official duties. A copy of the Code of Conduct is available on the Council's [website](#).

Meetings and remuneration

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel met six times between July 2022 and June 2023. Advisory Panel members are remunerated in accordance with the Queensland Government's *Remuneration procedures for part-time chairs, and members of government bodies policy*.

Name	Attendance	Approved fee per meeting attended	Actual fees received	Out of pocket expenses
Laurie Bateman*	5	\$150	n/a	\$555.95
Christopher Emzin	3	\$150	\$300#	
Boneta-Marie Mabo	5	\$150	\$750	
Thelma Schwartz	3	\$150	\$300#	\$335.27
Stephen Tillett*	3	\$150	n/a	\$338.95
Graham White	6	\$150	\$900	
Kevin Williams	3	\$150	\$300#	\$132.43
TOTALS			\$2,550	\$1,362.60

* Public sector employees are not paid fees unless approved by the Queensland Government.

Meeting fee for June meeting was paid after close of financial year

Advisory Panel membership²

Boneta-Marie Mabou

Boneta-Marie's complete biography can be found on page 20 of this report.

Laurie Bateman

Laurie is a Police Officer in Cunnamulla and former Police Liaison Officer. Laurie attended the Townsville Police Academy in 2019 through the Indigenous Recruit Preparation Program. His first job was as a sheep shearer and he later worked as a shearing contractor managing shearing teams within South-West Queensland. Laurie continued to become a shearing trainer and mentor for disengaged Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people at Merriman Station at Brewarrina, NSW. Laurie's family are Kamilaroi People, from northern NSW, but he grew up in Bollon, which is in the heart of Kooma country, South-West Queensland.

Stephen Tillett

Stephen is the First Nations Justice Officer and leads the First Nations Justice Office within the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG). Stephen held a number of senior positions in DJAG, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing and Queensland Health from 2019 to 2022. Prior to that, Stephen had a distinguished career as a police officer working across Far North Queensland. Stephen is actively involved as a volunteer in rugby league and has been on a range of Boards and Advisory Committees over the past 15 years.

Graham White

Graham is an Iman descendent who grew up in the Rockhampton region. He is currently the Director of Sector Engagement and Communications with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service in Brisbane. He has extensive experience in the areas of Strategic and Operational Planning and Project Management. He has developed experience working with several Queensland Government agencies. Graham is currently a skills-based director with Kambu Aboriginal Corporation, and a Director of PCYC QLD. He has also been a board member of the 'Iman Native Title Company' at Rockhampton and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service Brisbane.

Thelma Schwartz

Thelma is the Principal Legal Officer of

Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisation providing legal and non-legal support services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims and survivors of family violence and sexual assault. She was previously a member of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. Thelma has worked extensively with and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, providing legal services and legal representation as a criminal defence solicitor with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service for over nine years. Thelma identifies as of Torres Strait Islander heritage alongside her German/Samoan and Papua New Guinean heritage.

Professor Kevin Williams

Kevin is a Wakka Wakka man and semi-retired law lecturer who is an Adjunct Professor in the School of Law and Society at the University of the Sunshine Coast. Kevin has worked as Acting Queensland Director of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, sat on a taskforce to restructure the Queensland Police Service following the Fitzgerald Inquiry, and was Chair of the Human Research Ethics Committee for the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. Kevin—who holds a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Laws and Master of Laws—lectured in law at the University of Newcastle and helped establish a pre-law program at the University of New South Wales to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to be accepted into law school.

Christopher Emzin

Christopher Emzin is an Aboriginal and South Sea Islander man born, raised and living on the land of the Yugambah speaking group and Kombumerri Saltwater people of the Bunjalung Nation. He currently holds an academic position with the School of Justice in the QUT Faculty of Creative Industries, Education and Social Justice. In this academic role he is an Associate Professor of Indigenous Practice, Justice. Christopher holds a Masters and a Bachelors Degree of Laws and has been admitted to practice law as a 'Barrister-At-Law'. In 2022, he retired as an Inspector of Police for the Queensland Police Service after 37 years policing experience as a manager, criminal investigator, prosecutor and legal advisor. Christopher is currently undertaking a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).

² Biographies are provided by the individual and do not reflect the Council as a whole.

The Secretariat

Workforce profile

The Secretariat works to support the Council as it informs, engages and advises Queenslanders about sentencing matters.

The 11 FTE Secretariat staff are employed by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. The staff work in 4 functions: Administration, Research and Statistics, Policy, and Media and Engagement.

April Chrzanowski was appointed as Director of the Secretariat in January 2023, and has unique expertise in law, criminology and mathematics. Having worked in the private legal profession, the university sector, and within Queensland government, she has applied experience in criminal justice policy, evaluation, research, and teaching.

The Administration team maintains a high-functioning, professional office adhering to all departmental reporting requirements and supports the needs of Council members and Secretariat staff to deliver on their functions.

The Research and Statistics team conducts research and quantitative analysis to establish an evidence-base on sentencing and deliver high quality information to the Council, key stakeholders and the community.

The Policy team provides legal policy support to the Council by drafting legal content for publications, advising on legal processes and legislative and sentencing issues. The team guides the Council to reach evidence-based policy positions and to consult with stakeholders about proposed sentencing reforms.

The Media and Engagement team manages media enquiries and creates accessible and engaging content to inform the community about sentencing.

Strategic workforce planning and performance

During the last financial year, the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council did not undergo any formal organisational change.

Health and wellbeing

As employees of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Secretariat staff:

- have access to flexible work arrangements, helping to support a positive work-life balance
- undertake mandatory training on ergonomics
- have access to the Benestar Employee Assistance Program
- have access to vicarious trauma training

Professional development and creating capability

Employees develop and regularly update performance development plans. These plans set a solid foundation for ongoing discussion, review and assessment of professional performance.

Staff are encouraged to engage in professional development opportunities to gain further skills and knowledge.

During 2022–23, Secretariat and Council members attended relevant conferences (online and face-to-face), cultural capability training, and various internal and external professional development courses.

Misconduct, conflicts of interest and other such matters are dealt with in consultation with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

The Council and Secretariat are committed to building an inclusive and diverse workforce that better reflects the community we serve.

This means creating an inclusive culture that promotes the skills and insights of our people regardless of gender, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation or disability.

Early retirement, redundancy and retrenchment

No redundancy, early retirement or retrenchment packages were paid by the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council in 2022–23.

Queensland public service values and Code of Conduct

As Department of Justice and Attorney-General staff, Secretariat members must comply with the whole-of-government Code of Conduct. The Secretariat upholds the four ethics principles, along with the associated standards of conduct outlined in the Code.

The four fundamental principles of ethical behaviour are:

- Integrity and impartiality
- Promoting the public good
- Commitment to the system of government
- Accountability and transparency.

New team members attend an induction training session about their responsibilities under the Code of Conduct, with an annual online refresher course.

The Queensland Government's public service values also guide the Secretariat's behaviour and the way we do business.

The five values are:



Customers first

- Know your customers
- Deliver what matters
- Make decisions with empathy



Ideas into action

- Challenge the norm and suggest solutions
- Encourage and embrace new ideas
- Work across boundaries



Unleash potential

- Expect greatness
- Lead and set clear expectations
- Seek, provide and act on feedback



Be courageous

- Own your actions, successes and mistakes
- Take calculated risks
- Act with transparency



Empower people

- Lead, empower and trust
- Play to everyone's strengths
- Develop yourself and those around you

Our risk management

Our risk register identifies the Council's broad strategic risks and day-to-day operational risks. The register outlines associated mitigation strategies to ensure that risks are identified and managed in an effective, structured and coordinated way.

We review the register quarterly to comply with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General's risk management framework. The Council Chair and Director are the accountable officers.

The Council uses a modified version of the PRINCE2 (Projects in Controlled Environments) methodology to plan and manage projects. Our approach identifies and documents project risks, with mitigation strategies agreed and implemented early in the project planning process.

The Council and Secretariat use the project closure step in this process to improve and document lessons learned.

Internal audit and external scrutiny

The Council complies with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General's internal audit policy and the Department's processes for external scrutiny.

During 2022–23, the Council was not subject to any major internal audits or reviews, nor was the Council required to action requests for external reviews.

Information systems

The Council uses the Department of Justice and Attorney-General's online document and record management system (eDOCS) to manage electronic documents.

The system follows departmental policies and processes for record keeping including Information Standard (Recordkeeping), Information Standard (Retention and Disposal of Public Records) and the *Public Records Act 2002*.

The Council and Secretariat staff are made aware of information and cyber security policies and procedures to maintain confidentiality and protect information.

Recordkeeping

We are committed to keeping accurate and complete records of the Council's activities.

As a statutory entity, the Council has established a range of recordkeeping systems, procedures and practices to ensure it can effectively undertake its functions.

The Council has adopted departmental policies and procedures for information management—governed by the *Public Records Act 2002*—and has employed its own Operating Guidelines, which were reviewed and updated in March 2023. The Operating Guidelines outline Council member responsibilities regarding recordkeeping.

Right to Information

The Council was not subject to any Right to Information requests in the last financial year.

Services delivered within budget

In 2022–23, the Council received an allocated budget of \$1,782,700 to cover expenses related to employees, property, travel, products and resource, supplies and services, and miscellaneous expenses.

The Council's actual expenditure for the financial year was \$1,749,896 with the savings allocated back to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

Summary of financial performance

The Council is not a statutory body for the purposes of the *Statutory Bodies Act 1982* or the *Financial Accountability Act 2009*.

The Secretariat is allocated funding through the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, with the Director-General of Department of Justice and Attorney-General being the accountable officer in relation to the *Financial Accountability Act 2009*.

Comprehensive financial details for the Secretariat are reported in the Department of Justice and Attorney-General annual report available at www.justice.qld.gov.au.

The Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council is committed to releasing as much public service data as possible through the [Queensland Government's Open Data initiative](#).

Consultancies

During the 2022–23 financial year, the Council did not expend any budget on consultants for services or products.

Overseas travel

The Council did not expend any budget on overseas travel during the 2022–23 financial year.

Glossary

Term	Meaning
ARRs	<i>Annual report requirements for Queensland Government agencies</i>
CEM	Child exploitation material
DJAG	Department of Justice and Attorney-General
eDOCS	Online document and record management system
FAA	<i>Financial Accountability Act 2009</i>
FPMS	<i>Financial and Performance Management Standard 2019</i>
FTE	Full-time equivalent
PRINCE2	Projects in Controlled Environments
PSA	<i>Penalties and Sentences Act 1992</i>
QCS	Queensland Corrective Services
QPS	Queensland Police Service
QSAC	Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council
SVO	Serious Violent Offences
ToR	Terms of Reference

2022–23 citation list

Books and journal articles

- James Arthur and Asha Varghese, 'An Interview with Debbie Kilroy' in Asha Varghese and James Arthur (eds), *Pandora's Box 2022: Poverty and the Law in Australia* (The Justice and Law Society, The University of Queensland, 2022)
- Catherine Bugler and Alice Muir, 'Recommendations to Alleviate Gendered, Racial and Socio-economic Inequalities in the Administration of the Bail System' (2023) 97 *Australian Law Journal* 249
- Katrine Del Villar, Lindy Willmott and Ben P. White, 'Voluntary request, or vulnerable adults? A critique of criminal sentencing in assisted suicide and 'mercy killing' cases' (2022) 45(2) *University of New South Wales Law Journal* 449
- Elizabeth Ellis, *Australian Animal Law: Context and Critique* (2022)
- Terry Goldsworth, 'Why we should not rush to raise the age of criminal responsibility in Australia', *The Conversation*, published online 1 September 2022
- Arlie Loughnan and Mike O'Connor (2023) 'Medical Issues: Monstrous Mothering: Understanding the Causes of and Responses to Infanticide' (2023) 30 *Journal of Law and Medicine* 48
- Delia Magherescu, 'Achieving judgment by means of forensic science during the criminal proceedings in Romania' (2022) 8(2) *Revista Brasileira de Direito Processual Penal*
- Margaret McMurdo, 'The Land of the Fair Go' in Asha Varghese and James Arthur (eds), *Pandora's Box 2022: Poverty and the Law in Australia* (The Justice and Law Society, The University of Queensland, 2022)
- Monique Moffa, Michele Ruyters and Greg Stratton, 'Still no bodies: five years of "no body, no parole" in Queensland, Australia' (2022) 55(2) *Journal of Criminology* 162
- Taylor, Elisabeth, *Transformative STEAM Education for Sustainable Development*, (Chapter 4 – Transformative Teacher Education for Sustainability) (2022)
- Tamara Walsh, 'Can we fix it? Law, Lawyers and Social Change' (2022) 34 *Bond Law Review* 123

Legal Judgments

R v Conley [2023] QSC 25 – sentencing remarks

Reports

Queensland, Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service Responses to Domestic and Family Violence

- Queensland, Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service Responses to Domestic and Family Violence, *A Call for Change* (21 November 2022)

Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce

- Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, *Hear Her Voice: Report Two – Women and Girls' Experiences Across the Criminal Justice System* (July 2022)

Other

- Economics and Governance Committee, Queensland Parliament, *Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023* (Report No. 41, 57th Parliament, 10 March 2023)

- Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, Queensland Parliament, *Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023* (Report No. 46, 57th Parliament, 14 April 2023)

Compliance checklist

Summary of requirement		Basis for requirement	Annual report reference
Letter of compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A letter of compliance from the accountable officer or statutory body to the relevant Minister/s 	ARRs – section 7	4
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Table of contents Glossary 	ARRs – section 9.1	3 27
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public availability 	ARRs – section 9.2	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpreter service statement 	<i>Queensland Government Language Services Policy</i> ARRs – section 9.3	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copyright notice 	<i>Copyright Act 1968</i> ARRs – section 9.4	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information Licensing 	<i>QGEA – Information Licensing</i> ARRs – section 9.5	2
General information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introductory Information 	ARRs – section 10	7
Non-financial performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government's objectives for the community and whole-of-government plans/specific initiatives 	ARRs – section 11.1	7
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agency objectives and performance indicators 	ARRs – section 11.2	8 25-26
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agency service areas and service standards 	ARRs – section 11.3	25-26
Financial performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of financial performance 	ARRs – section 12.1	26
Governance – management and structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisational structure 	ARRs – section 13.1	16
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive management 	ARRs – section 13.2	16-22
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government bodies (statutory bodies and other entities) 	ARRs – section 13.3	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Sector Ethics 	<i>Public Sector Ethics Act 1994</i> ARRs – section 13.4	24
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Rights 	<i>Human Rights Act 2019</i> ARRs – section 13.5	7
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Queensland public service values 	ARRs – section 13.6	24
Governance – risk management and accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk management 	ARRs – section 14.1	25
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit committee 	ARRs – section 14.2	25
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal audit 	ARRs – section 14.3	25
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External scrutiny 	ARRs – section 14.4	25
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information systems and recordkeeping 	ARRs – section 14.5	26
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information Security attestation 	ARRs – section 14.6	26

Summary of requirement		Basis for requirement	Annual report reference
Governance – human resources	• Strategic workforce planning and performance	ARRs – section 15.1	23
	• Early retirement, redundancy and retrenchment	Directive No.04/18 <i>Early Retirement, Redundancy and Retrenchment</i> ARRs – section 15.2	24
Open Data	• Statement advising publication of information	ARRs – section 16	26
	• Consultancies	ARRs – section 31.1	26
	• Overseas travel	ARRs – section 31.2	26
Financial statements	• Certification of financial statements	FAA – section 62 FPMS – sections 38, 39 and 46 ARRs – section 17.1	N/A
	• Independent Auditor's Report	FAA – section 62 FPMS – section 46 ARRs – section 17.2	N/A

FAA

Financial Accountability Act 2009

FPMS

Financial and Performance Management Standard 2019

ARRs

Annual report requirements for Queensland Government agencies



Queensland Sentencing
Advisory Council