

Connect

Tribunals Review Newsletter



A message from Julie Grantham

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the first 'Tribunal Review Newsletter'. As Director-General of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (JAG), I extend a special welcome to readers from departments and organisations outside the JAG portfolio.

Since the Premier's announcement on 12 March 2008 that there would be a civil and administrative tribunal, a large volume of work has been completed.

An expert panel (the Honourable Glen Williams AO QC, Peter Applegarth SC and Julie-Anne Schafer) for the tribunals review has been appointed. The panel will provide the Queensland Government with advice on the amalgamation in three stages. The first stage will be a report delivered to the Queensland Government later this month about what tribunals and jurisdictions should be included in the new tribunal.

The initial consultation period for the panel's June report was short but thorough. More than 50 submissions have been received and reviewed. I understand the panel has completed a series of face-to-face consultation sessions that provided valuable information to inform their first report.

Once the panel's report is released, we will know which tribunals the panel believes should amalgamate. Like you, I am eager to finalise these details so we can begin the challenging task of amalgamating.

The success of the new tribunal relies, heavily, on the contribution of staff and members. Together, we have an opportunity to transform the delivery of civil and administrative justice in this state and to create a fairer, more efficient and accessible system, that truly benefits the people of Queensland. I encourage each of you to get involved.

Julie Grantham
Director-General
Department of Justice and Attorney-General

Looking forward...

While we wait for the release of the panel's first report we look ahead to stage two and three.

Once their first report is complete, the panel will start work on the legislative amendments required to implement the new tribunal. A report outlining these amendments will be delivered to the Queensland Government by October 2008.

Stage three of the project will involve the development of a final report to government detailing full operational implementation requirements for the new tribunal. This is due in March 2009. The Bill for the new tribunal is also expected to be introduced into Parliament at this time.

Copies of these reports are expected to be publicly available on our website,
www.tribunalsreview.qld.gov.au.

The project team will advise staff when these reports are publicly released and provide information to them about the impact of the reports and the next steps.

Tribunals Review Team

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Queensland Government

Department of Justice and Attorney-General

FAQ's

When will the amalgamation occur?

The amalgamation is due to occur by the second half of 2009. A number of approaches are being considered by the panel. These approaches range from a staged transition through to a single go-live date.

Where will the new tribunal be located?

Utilisation of the existing tribunal hub at 259 Queen Street will be maximised in the short-term. The project team is working with the Department of Public Works to determine a suitable longer term accommodation arrangement which recognises the needs of Brisbane and regional staff and users.

How will I know what is happening between now and December 2009?

To keep you informed, a range of activities have been developed including:

- lunch box information sessions
- focus groups
- registry visits
- e-newsletters
- email and web updates.

For more FAQ's visit our website www.tribunalsreview.qld.gov.au.

The hot seat....

In this section, we introduce you to a member of the project team. First up is Project Leader, Jennifer Lang.

When did you join the project team?

10 April 2008

What does a typical day involve?

My position involves working with the expert panel to make sure they have the information they need to make their decisions.

I work with and oversee the tribunals project team on various areas such as:

- what the new legislation for the tribunal will look like
- developing a case management system for the tribunal
- workforce issues
- costings, accommodation and our communication plan.

I also liaise with our colleagues from other departments including the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and Queensland Treasury to make sure that they are up to date with what is happening with the tribunals review project.

What is the best part of your job?

Working with a great team who are forward looking and who are committed to the development of an amalgamated tribunal.

What did you do before you joined the project team?

For the past 12 months I have been working for the CEO Committee for A Fairer and Safer Queensland. That committee was working in a number of different areas and oversaw the development of the discussion paper that led to the Queensland Government's decision to amalgamate the tribunals.

Lunchbox information sessions begin

The first round of lunchbox information sessions for tribunal staff were held on 13 and 14 May 2008 in the CBD area. The sessions brought staff together from a number of tribunals including the Commercial and Consumer Tribunal, Guardianship and Administration Tribunal, Office of the Public Service Commissioner, Small Claims Tribunal and Industrial Registry.

Participants met staff from other tribunals and had an opportunity to discuss some of their similarities and differences. They also learnt about the project's history, reporting processes and communication and consultation initiatives.

Evaluation forms completed at the end of the sessions indicated strong support for further information sessions and additional opportunities to meet staff from other tribunals.

A new round of information sessions will be held in August 2008 once the panel's June report is considered by Cabinet. Contact the project team now to register your interest in attending.

The project team would like to thank the Commercial and Consumer Tribunal (CCT) and Guardianship and Administration Tribunal (GAAT) for allowing them to use their facilities.

Join our mailing list

Our mailing list is now available. To join visit our website www.tribunalsreview.qld.gov.au and follow the link.