

Queensland State Budget 2018

Key highlights for lawyers

Below is a summary of the key announcements for the legal profession from the 2018/19 Queensland State Budget, handed down on Tuesday 12 June 2018.

Criminal justice

- Funding for 400 additional police officers across the State and 85 counter terrorism specialists
- \$5M for 30 staff in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
- \$41M additional funding for work at the Capricornia Correctional Centre to provide a further 84 cells
- \$9.4M over two years for the expansion of parole and probation services
- \$6.9M over four years to continue the work of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council
- Increased financial support to the victims of crime (\$11.4M over two years)
- \$9.1M over four years to support the continued delivery of the Murri Court and to extend Court Link to Southport, Mount Isa and Ipswich
- \$3.9M for the expansion of the Supreme Court bail application service to male prisoners
- \$2.8M to improve service delivery for prisoners with a disability or mental illness

Child safety

- \$4.6M for 44 additional staff at the Director of Child Protection Litigation
- \$7.2M over three years to implement an online Blue Card application system
- \$20M over two years to support children and young people in care with complex behaviours
- \$3.3M for additional staff in the Office of the Child and Family Solicitor to provide advice to child safety workers on child protection matters

Youth justice

- \$11.7M over three years for services and initiatives to reduce the remand of children and young people in custody
- \$10.6M over two years for additional positions at Queensland's two youth detention centres
- Funding to add 12 new beds at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre and existing work to provide 16 new beds at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre
- \$6.9M funding for recommissioning of the Borallon Training and Correctional Centre

Domestic violence

- \$8.1M for extending the Townsville Specialist Domestic and Family Violence Court to Mount Isa and Palm Island and dealing with both criminal and civil DV matters
- \$2.9M allocated for behavioural programs for domestic violence perpetrators

Courts administration

- \$14M over three years for the delivery of recording and transcription services in the Queensland Courts
- \$10M to respond to increased workload in the administration of the Queensland Courts
- \$2.5M for the Office of the Public Guardian and QCAT to meet increased workload associated with the NDIS rollout

Legal system

- \$2.3M over four years for the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner to support the operation and administration of the Human Rights Act for Queensland
- Establishment of a Queensland artificial intelligence hub at the Precinct in Fortitude Valley to develop skills and encourage the use of AI in business
- \$2.5M over four years for additional review officers at the Office of the Information Commissioner
- \$1M over three years to engage with the community on how traditional Torres Strait Islander child rearing practices can be recognised in law

Taxes

- An extension of the 50% payroll tax rebate to June 2019 for apprentice and trainee wages
- Land tax to increase 0.5% for landholdings with a taxable value above \$10M
- Foreign Acquirer Duty to increase to 7% for land acquisitions
- Motor vehicle duty increasing by 2% on vehicle transfers above \$100,000

For more information on these and other measures announced by the Palaszczuk Government in the 2018/19 Queensland State Budget, visit budget.qld.gov.au