



Enquiries to: State Health Emergency
Coordination Centre
Telephone: (07) 3708 5239
File Ref: C-ECTF-20/4759

Queensland Health

Mr Luke Murphy
President
Queensland Law Society
GPO Box 1785
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Email: president@qls.com.au

Dear Mr Murphy

Thank you for your email dated 31 March 2020, seeking an exemption from the Hospital Visitors Direction, published 26 March 2020.

I understand from your correspondence that some solicitors are being prevented from attending hospitals for the purpose of supporting people in preparing advanced planning documents, including wills and/or enduring powers of attorney, due to the interpretation of the Hospital Visitors Direction.

This Direction has been issued to protect our most vulnerable in the community. I appreciate that a solicitor's role in supporting advanced planning is important, and as such I approve the Queensland Law Society and its members being granted an exemption to attend a hospital for the purpose of providing legal advice and assistance to a patient.

This exemption is granted on the following conditions for the attending solicitor:

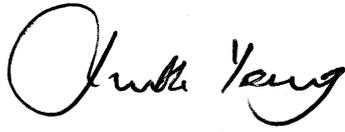
- They must not have been asked to self-quarantine within the 14 days preceding their visit;
- They must not be unwell in any way, particularly with a fever, cough, sore throat, and shortness of breath;
- They should maintain 1.5 metres of personal distance, where possible;
- They should not be from a vulnerable group (for example, age 65 or over with one or more chronic diseases, or 70 years or over); and
- Only one attending solicitor may attend at any one time.

Queensland Health has not been publishing specific exemptions on its website, so you are welcome to provide a copy of this letter to your members so that they may present it to a hospital should there be any concerns about the solicitor attending.

I trust that the above exemption will assist your members in providing legal support and services to our community during this difficult time.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact Queensland Health about this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeannette Young". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Dr Jeannette Young PSM
**Chief Health Officer
and Deputy Director-General
Prevention Division**
3 April 2020