

## About us

### Information for victims and their families about the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) is an agency of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. It has a key role to play in administering justice throughout Queensland.

### What is the role of the ODPP?

The ODPP carries out the work of the Director of Public Prosecutions, who represents the State of Queensland in serious criminal cases.

The Director is responsible for providing the State with expert legal representation so that the evidence against someone accused of a serious crime can be properly presented to the court.

Most of the work carried out by the ODPP happens in the superior courts – that is, the District and Supreme Courts and the Childrens Court of Queensland. Matters that are less serious are usually dealt with in the Magistrates Court by the Police Prosecutions Corps ('PPC'), which is part of the Queensland Police Service.

It is possible that the ODPP will be involved in the prosecution of some serious offences in the Magistrates Court in the central Brisbane Magistrates Court, Ipswich Magistrates Court, and the Southport Magistrates Court.

The ODPP also appears in the Mental Health Court, the Queensland Court of Appeal, and the High

Court of Australia.

### What type of work does this involve?

There are three main aspects to the work of the ODPP: legal preparation for the prosecution; court appearances; and victim liaison work.

### What is meant by legal preparation?

It means getting all the legal material ready so that a case can be properly presented in court.

The ODPP employs lawyers and other staff who work together to organise what is needed.

The police provide the ODPP with the evidence against the accused. This may include (but is not limited to) written statements made by witnesses, photographs, weapons, and recordings of any statements made by the accused.

The case lawyer working on the case prepares everything required for court. They also communicate with the investigating police and ask for further evidence if necessary.

Preparation of a case is often a lengthy process.

### How is the ODPP involved in court appearances?

Lawyers from the ODPP act for the State at many different types of court hearings, including committal hearings, mentions, trials, sentence hearings, bail applications, and appeals. (Some of these terms are defined in our other factsheets.)

If you have any questions about the types of

hearings that might take place in relation to a matter you are involved in, please contact your Victim Liaison Officer.

### Why does the ODPP do victim liaison work?

People whose lives have been disrupted by crime have often been affected by what has happened and would like information about the criminal justice system. The legal process can seem very impersonal, even frightening. It is important that those who may have already suffered harm are provided with information about the prosecution of the matter, their rights as victims, and how they may be involved in the court process.

### Charter of Victims' Rights

People who have suffered harm as the result of a crime of violence in Queensland, including domestic and family violence, have rights. These rights are set out in the Charter of Victims' Rights.

Your rights include that the ODPP should:

- Treat you with respect, courtesy, compassion, and dignity.
- Take your needs into account and protect your privacy.
- Give you information about who can help you.

More information about your rights is available online at: [www.qld.gov.au/victimsrights](http://www.qld.gov.au/victimsrights).



## What is involved in victim liaison work?

The ODPP employs Victim Liaison Officers to provide information to victims of violent crimes and their close family members. These officers give information to victims involved in the criminal justice process about the progress of their case in accordance with the Charter of Victims' Rights. For example, a Victim Liaison Officer may contact you about:

- The next time the matter will be in Court.
- Arranging a meeting with one of the ODPP's lawyers if required.
- Coming to court to give evidence.
- The outcome of the case.

Sometimes your Victim Liaison Officer or a lawyer from the ODPP may need to contact you at short notice to update you about the prosecution or court hearings. For this reason, it is very important that you notify your Victim Liaison Officer if you change any of your contact details.

The ODPP provides an information and liaison service rather than a support service. Victim Liaison Officers can refer you to other organisations for specialised assistance, such as in-court support or counselling. The ODPP will not give your personal information to a support service without your consent.

## Financial assistance for victims

Victims of violent crimes in Queensland or their close family members may also be eligible for financial assistance under the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009 (Qld)*. To make an application

for financial assistance or obtain more information about support services, please contact Victim Assist Queensland (VAQ):

### Victim Assist Queensland (VAQ)

**Phone:** 1300 546 587

**Email:** [victimassist@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:victimassist@justice.qld.gov.au)

**Website:** [www.qld.gov.au/victims](http://www.qld.gov.au/victims)

You may also wish to contact a private solicitor to discuss what other options you may have in relation to financial assistance.

## Further support

Depending on your circumstances, there are a range of organisations who may be able to provide you with assistance:

### VictimConnect - statewide

**Phone:** 1300 318 940 (24-hour helpline)

**Website:** [www.victimconnect.org.au](http://www.victimconnect.org.au)

### DVConnect - statewide

**Phone:** 1800 811 811 (24-hour helpline)

**Website:** [www.dvconnect.org](http://www.dvconnect.org)

### PACT – statewide

**Phone:** 1800 449 632

**Website:** [www.pact.org.au](http://www.pact.org.au)

### Queensland Sexual Assault Network - statewide

**Website:** <https://qsan.org.au/>

## Further information

If you have any questions or need help, please contact your Victim Liaison Officer directly or contact the ODPP in your region:

### Freecall

P: 1800 673 428

### Brisbane

P: (07) 3035 1122

[DPPVictimLiaisonSupervisor@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:DPPVictimLiaisonSupervisor@justice.qld.gov.au)

### Beenleigh

P: (07) 3081 2300

[ODPPVLOBeenleigh@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:ODPPVLOBeenleigh@justice.qld.gov.au)

### Cairns

P: (07) 4038 5731

[ODPPVLOCairns@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:ODPPVLOCairns@justice.qld.gov.au)

### Ipswich

P: (07) 3470 7419

[ODPPVLOIpswich@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:ODPPVLOIpswich@justice.qld.gov.au)

### Maroochydore

P: (07) 5376 5200

[ODPPVLOMaroochy@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:ODPPVLOMaroochy@justice.qld.gov.au)

### Rockhampton

P: (07) 4921 6206

[ODPPVLORockhampton@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:ODPPVLORockhampton@justice.qld.gov.au)

### Southport

P: (07) 5675 7000

[ODPPVLOSouthport@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:ODPPVLOSouthport@justice.qld.gov.au)

### Toowoomba

P: (07) 4591 4758

[ODPPVLOToowoomba@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:ODPPVLOToowoomba@justice.qld.gov.au)

### Townsville

P: (07) 4781 8933

[ODPPVLOTownsville@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:ODPPVLOTownsville@justice.qld.gov.au)