

Where to seek legal advice

The Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) is an independent tribunal that resolves disputes in a manner that is accessible, quick and inexpensive.

Due to the tribunal's independence, registry staff cannot provide legal advice. Common questions we are asked which we cannot answer include:

- Should I submit an application?
- Can the tribunal manage my dispute?
- How do I word my application?
- What evidence do I need to prove my case?
- What should I say in my hearing?
- What orders do I need to ask for?

You may wish to seek legal advice for answers to these questions.

Obtaining legal advice

There are a number of options for obtaining legal advice.

- Contact the private solicitor of your choice.
- Use Queensland Law Society's Find a Solicitor Service – [qls.com.au/For the community/Find a solicitor](http://qls.com.au/For_the_community/Find_a_solicitor).
- Phone Legal Aid Queensland on 1300 65 11 88.
- Contact Community Legal Centres Queensland for details of your local community legal centre on 07 3392 0092.

Community legal centres

Centre	Contact details
<p>Caxton Legal Centre (Brisbane) provides free legal advice to people on low incomes or who face other disadvantages. Social work assistance is also available to clients receiving help from the centre.</p> <p>Caxton's Seniors Legal and Support Service provides free legal and social work support for seniors experiencing elder abuse, mistreatment or financial exploitation.</p> <p>The centre does not provide advice about building, business or commercial disputes, immigration, taxation and personal injury.</p>	<p>caxton.org.au/ caxton.org.au/sails_class.html 07 3214 6333</p>
<p>The Park and Village Information Link (PAVIL) provides free information and legal assistance for residents and prospective residents of Queensland retirement villages and manufactured home parks.</p>	<p>caxton.org.au/park_village_information.html 07 3214 6333</p>
<p>Queensland Advocacy Incorporated is an independent, community-based system and legal advocacy organisation for people with disability in Queensland.</p>	<p>qai.org.au 1300 130 582</p>
<p>Community Legal Centres Queensland provides support and advocacy for 33 independent, community-led community legal centres operating across Queensland. A complete list of these centres is available on their website.</p>	<p>communitylegalqld.org.au/ 07 3392 0092</p>

This fact sheet provides general information and should not be considered legal advice. If you are unsure about your legal rights, you should seek independent legal assistance. Your individual circumstances should determine any actions taken to resolve your dispute.

Centre	Contact details
<p>LawRight partners with the private legal profession to deliver pro bono (free) legal services to individuals and community groups. LawRight's services are means tested.</p> <p>In QCAT, LawRight offers appointments with volunteer lawyers to provide free legal advice and help with the following QCAT areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-discrimination; • Blue Card; • Child Safety; • Guardianship and administration; • Right to information and information privacy; • Victim Assist; • Appeals of decisions made by QCAT in the above areas. <p>Appointments are provided via an office in Brisbane, or by phone for people living outside of Brisbane.</p> <p>LawRight also operates a duty lawyer service, offering free legal advice and one-off representation to people involved in matters being heard in the Brisbane Registry of the Tribunal, where that matter has been caused or aggravated by family violence. The service operates on a drop-in basis, at a number of different times each week (subject to the availability of volunteers). Please contact LawRight to discuss whether volunteers will be available on the day of your hearing.</p>	<p>lawright.org.au 07 3006 2324</p>
<p>Tenants Queensland provides advice for residential tenants, including caravan park and boarding house residents.</p>	<p>tenantsqld.org.au 1300 744 263</p>
<p>The Women's Legal Service is a community legal centre that provides free legal advice and information to women in Queensland.</p>	<p>wlsq.org.au/ 1800 677 278</p>
<p>The Youth Advocacy Centre offers free confidential legal and welfare assistance to young people under 17 who live in or around Brisbane. Telephone support is available throughout Queensland.</p>	<p>yac.net.au/ 07 3356 1002</p>

Community organisations

Organisation	Contact details
<p>The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Qld) Ltd provides legal services for ATSI people across Queensland.</p>	<p>atsils.com.au/ 1800 012 255</p>
<p>Carers Queensland's Family Support & Advocacy Program provides carers with free support, information, advice and representation in regards to adult guardianship and administration matters.</p>	<p>carersqld.asn.au/ 1800 242 636</p>
<p>The Elder Abuse Prevention Unit provides information, referral and support to ensure older people live free from abuse.</p>	<p>eapu.com.au/ 1300 651 192</p>

Organisation	Contact details
Aged and Disability Advocacy Australia is a non-profit, independent, community based advocacy service providing information, education, support and representation.	adaaustralia.com.au 1800 818 338 (freecall)
Independent Advocacy Townsville provides assistance and referrals for people with a disability in North Queensland.	independentadvocacy.org.au 1800 887 688 (freecall)