

# Technical Bulletin: 01/11

April 2011

To: Justices of the Peace (Qualified) and  
Commissioners for Declarations

## Volunteers in policing who are also Justices of the Peace or Commissioners for Declarations

### General Information

The Justices of the Peace Branch has identified an issue that may affect Justices of the Peace (JPs) and Commissioners for Declarations (Cdecs) in their role when assisting the community.

This bulletin will provide information regarding the potential conflict of interest that may arise if a person is a Volunteer in Policing (ViP) for the Queensland Police Service (QPS) and a JP or Cdec.

### General

Members of the QPS are governed by the Queensland Police Service Operational Procedures Manual (OPM). Sections of the OPM also apply to those who are ViPs.

The OPM provides direction to QPS members who are also JPs or Cdecs. Generally, this section states that members of the QPS must not use other members (including ViPs) who are also either a JP or Cdec for the purpose of witnessing documents.

The purpose of this policy is to reduce the apparent conflict of interest or bias that may arise when witnessing documents for the QPS. It also attempts to ensure that matters before a court are not set aside or excluded as evidence as a result of QPS members witnessing documents for other members. This policy does not prevent a QPS member from performing their role or other function as a JP or Cdec other than those documents for the QPS.

### Witnessing procedure

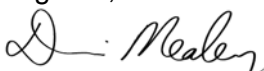
If you are a ViP and a JP or Cdec you must remove yourself from these situations and attempt to find an independent JP or Cdec to assist with the matter.

### Further information

The QPS has advised there are a number of ViPs who are also JPs or Cdecs who currently conform to this policy.

Should you wish to seek further information regarding ViPs you can visit the following website at <http://www.police.qld.gov.au/join/vip/>.

Regards,



Damien Mealey  
Registrar

Justices of the Peace Branch  
Department of Justice and Attorney-General

