

JP Bulletin

Issue 17

Dear Colleagues

In this edition we reflect on the past 12 months and take a glimpse of what 2018 has in store. Changing legislation has kept us all on our toes. Each and every one of you has admirably adapted to the new administrative requirements. I have always believed that change and the challenges they present create opportunity. Opportunity for all of us to learn new skills, pass on knowledge, and help everyone in the community to thrive and live a happy and fulfilled life. It is a sentiment I trust you share.

In 2017, the JPs in the Community program has become one of Queensland's largest volunteer programs, reaching a milestone of more than 2,100 volunteers across 235 signing sites.

In addition, JPs and Cdecs attended more than 100 professional development workshops and electorate seminars in more than 40 Brisbane and regional locations from Weipa in the north, Robina in the south, and Mt Isa in the west.

I would like to thank all JPs, Cdecs, volunteers, site coordinators and JP Branch staff for these achievements and continued service. I welcome our new JPs, Cdecs and volunteers, and thank our more experienced JPs and Cdecs for mentoring many through their first months of practice.

I would also like to acknowledge the passing of a number of our colleagues during 2017. Their wealth of experience and considerable years of service has benefited many Queenslanders and will be remembered.

On behalf of my team at JP Branch and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General I wish you all a safe and happy festive season and the New Year.

Damien Mealey
Registrar and Manager
Justices of the Peace Branch
Department of Justice and Attorney-General



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1. News

Our year in review

As 2017 draws to a close, it's time to take breath and reflect on some of the major service enhancements and legislative changes you embraced during the year.

New editions of the JP and Cdec handbooks and logbook released

In September, we launched a new print edition of the [JP and Cdec handbooks and logbook](#) following the June release of a free PDF version. We're pleased to have received your warm feedback on the publication, particularly for the new loose-leaf format which enables a much easier way to update your handbook. Thank you to everyone who completed the recent handbook survey, the results of which will be shared in 2018.

Removal of Justices Examination Orders from your role

In March 2017, the power for a Justice of the Peace to consider a Justices Examination Order was repealed. Under the stewardship of Queensland Health, the streamlining of all mental health services has improved the outcomes for those with mental illness. We acknowledge the challenges this transition has presented for JPs. For more information refer to *Technical bulletin* [01/17 Mental Health Act 2016 - Abolishment of Justice Examination Orders](#).

Inclusion of Production Notices for JPs to consider in quasi-judicial role

Production Notices have been added to the list of documents JPs consider in their quasi-judicial roles. As Notices become more commonly used by Queensland Police Service it is rewarding to see good witnessing practices adopted. For more information about these Notices, refer to *Technical bulletin* [3/17 Queensland Police production notices](#).

Rollout of online statistics platform to enhance JPs in the Community service

A new online service for the JPs in the Community program was launched in September. The platform enhances how we measure our service delivery to local communities and across the State. Thank you to all volunteers for embracing this initiative.

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Connecting with Brisbane's homeless

JP Branch staff recently attended the annual Homeless Connect event in Brisbane to spread the message about JP services.

Staff distributed postcards to individuals, agencies and organisations detailing JPs and Cdecs work, the types of documents that may need witnessing, what documents need to be supplied and how to find local JP services at signing sites and after-hours.

[Homeless Connect](#) is a one-day event held annually by Brisbane City Council to bring businesses, community groups and government together to give free services to people experiencing homelessness or those at risk of homelessness. The project has helped more than 15,950 people improve their quality of life.

Be prepared this storm season

Summer storms can affect how we witness statutory declarations for disaster affected victims if an individual is not able to supply identification as it was lost or damaged. Read more in *Technical bulletin* [01/13 Witnessing statutory declarations for disaster affected victims](#).

After hours service

JPs and Cdecs should be available to carry out duties at all times but your personal safety and security should always come first.

While people may contact you at any time of the day or night, if you are busy you can make an appointment for a mutually agreeable time. Do not feel compelled to meet the person in your home; you may choose to meet at convenient community location.

JP Branch holiday closure

The JP Branch in South Brisbane will be closed for the Christmas-New Year period from 5.00pm Friday 22 December 2017 until 8.30am Tuesday, 2 January 2018. A message has been placed on the [Search for your nearest JP or Cdec](#) web page advising that signing sites may be closed or have different hours of operation during the Christmas and New Year period.

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Relics of our JP past

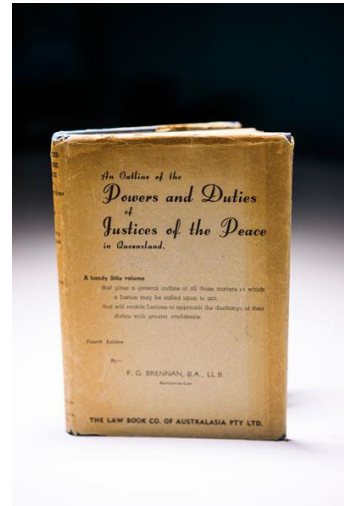
Do you have Queensland JP or Cdec memorabilia? Our Community Engagement Team is searching for old handbooks, training manuals, stamps, oaths, photographs, newspaper clippings and other interesting items to reflect on the heritage of the role since 1857.

In 2018 the memorabilia will be on public display at JP Branch's South Brisbane office and recorded digitally to share online with JP and Cdec volunteers across Queensland.

If you would like to donate, loan or reproduce an item for exhibition, email

ipsinthecommunity@justice.qld.gov.au.

Did you know that if you have an ancestor who took up the duties of a JP between 1857 to 1957 you can obtain a copy of their Oath of Allegiance through Queensland State Archives? [Click here](#) to search.



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2. Professional development

Enhanced 2018 workshop calendar

From February 2018, look out for JP Branch's new online professional development calendar featuring a new range of workshops, more locations and innovative online options.



CONDUCTING THE WEBINAR TRIAL WERE, FROM LEFT, JP BRANCH'S GREG THOMPSON AND LISA SHAW WITH OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC GUARDIAN'S MARK PHILLIPS.

It will reflect the changing training requirements of the role and enable volunteers in rural and remote areas to be trained locally.

In early December, JP Branch trialled a webinar presented by the Office of the Public Guardian. Participants simply required a computer and internet connection to join the discussion.

Webinars can assist those who are unable to attend face-to-face training due to their location or transport issues. They also provide an opportunity to learn from a diverse range of speakers across the State.

Positive workshop feedback

Some great feedback was received from the Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA) workshop held recently in Gladstone:

"The workshop on EPAs was just so helpful to me I could not believe it. I have done several EPAs before but I never felt confident. I was at the Courthouse on Thursday (the next day after the workshop) and an elderly former medical professional and his wife came in with an EPA each and a Will each. A solicitor in Brisbane had done them up for them and they had the EPAs signed in Gladstone by someone the week before and they didn't do them correctly, so the solicitor sent them another lot. They were worried that I would not know anything about them either. They were surprised when I told them that I was confident because we had a workshop the day before on EPAs and everything was explained to us in depth and was fresh in my mind. I was so pleased that I attended the Workshop. Thanks for coming to Gladstone."

Gladstone Justice of the Peace

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Professional development

Our workshops and seminars are designed to improve your knowledge and keep your skills up to date. Check out our [workshop calendar](#) from February 2018 for dates and locations of workshops held throughout the year and across Queensland.

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3. JPs in the community

Site statistics now entered online

This year JPs in the Community sites across Queensland embraced a new online statistics platform.

While the statistics collected at present are rudimentary, a clearer picture is emerging of the effect each signing site has in its community.



PACIFIC FAIR SIGNING SITE, BROADBEACH

In mid-2018, a revised model will further enable sites to record individual documents. This will help identify witnessing trends and enable JP Branch to tailor its training and support to areas where needed.

Below is a screenshot from the online platform of statistics from a busy Brisbane signing site, which has been a pilot site for the online tool since March 2017. The data provides a great insight into the site operations and enables its site coordinators to share the impressive accomplishments with their whole team.

	Documents	Customers	JPs	Hours
Mar 2017	4,735	1,563	26	226
Apr 2017	4,505	1,397	25	213
May 2017	6,190	2,027	22	266
Jun 2017	5,922	1,869	24	230
Jul 2017	5,483	1,849	22	244
Aug 2017	6,173	1,985	26	249
Sep 2017	5,185	1,825	23	257
Oct 2017	5,286	1,839	20	259
Nov 2017	5,264	1,822	21	256
TOTAL	48,743	16,176		2,200

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Trialling BDM verification

In January 2018, four signing sites will trial the verification of identification documents as part of a four week south-east Queensland pilot program in partnership with the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (RBDM).

Clients can attend signing sites at Robina, Orion Springfield, Westfield North Lakes and Westfield Garden City to expedite the issuing of birth certificates rather than at RBDM offices or a courthouse—saving clients time and the expense of travel.

For information on the types of identification clients need when applying for certificates visit www.qld.gov.au/birthcertificate.

Volunteer recruits—we want you

JP Branch is seeking more volunteer recruits for the JPs in the Community program to assist newly-established sites and other sites that are expanding their session times.

In 2017, we reached a milestone, becoming one of Queensland's largest volunteer programs with more than 2,100 volunteers across 235 signing sites.

Throughout the year we caught up with six signing site volunteers to get to know them better—asking them on camera why they became JPs, how they got started, and their advice to others thinking about taking up the role.

[Click here](#) to watch Bonnie, Dennis, Letitia, Ray, Wayne and Noelyn share their wealth of experience and their encouragement for new volunteer recruits.

Prospective volunteers are invited to contact JP Branch from 8 January 2018 on 1300 301 147 or jpsinthecommunity@justice.qld.gov.au.



WISE WORDS FROM NOELYN MANUEL, HOLLAND PARK COURTHOUSE SIGNING SITE VOLUNTEER.

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North Queensland update

In December, JP Branch Registrar and Manager Damien Mealey visited several North Queensland locations to participate in important local community engagement.

Damien joined the professional development workshop about complaints and summons in Townsville before witnessing first-hand the delivery of a webinar, hosted by the JP Branch and the Office of the Public Guardian.

He not only had the opportunity to meet with volunteers on duty in Castletown Shopping Centre and Townsville Community Information Centre, Damien also had the unique opportunity to converse online with site co-ordinators from other regions, using the department's newly obtained online professional development software.

"The webinar is yet another means through which JP Branch plans to keep up-to-date with current technology to communicate with JPs and Cdecs in 2018," Damien said.

While attending a gathering of JP volunteers in Townsville, Damien presented copies of the new edition JPs and Cdecs handbooks to the President of the Association of Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations Inc., Errol Neale.



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JP under the magnifying glass—Terry Lambert



TERRY LAMBERT

At 12 years of age, Terry Lambert heard his father repeat Edmund's Burke's famous line "evil prevails when good men do nothing", and over time this often repeated line became Terry's life mantra.

"At an early age I remember thinking I wanted to be one of the good guys and make a positive difference," Terry said.

"This attitude lead me to becoming a JP, as well as volunteering with other organisations such as Red Cross, Guide Dogs and St John Ambulance."

Prior to becoming a JP, Terry researched the office. On reading that JPs were members for the community who were accountable, honourable, and whose actions should be beyond reproach, he knew this role was for him.

"I took my oath of office in 1990. Since then I have derived immense pride from being part of a group of dedicated JPs and Cdecs who provide a reliable and valuable service to the Queensland community," Terry said.

"I have always held a deep-rooted belief in service and justice for all, regardless of an individual's status or beliefs, and being a JP is the perfect expression for this."

Terry currently volunteers at three Brisbane signing sites—Chermside, JP Branch and QCAT—as well as maintaining his other volunteering commitments.

True to his selfless nature, Terry expresses his appreciation for the work JP Branch staff do in supporting him and his fellow JPs. The truth is JP Branch is proud to be associated with Terry and fortunate to have him represent the Department of Justice and Attorney-General in the community.

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4. Tips and techniques

The National Domestic Violence Order Scheme

Domestic violence orders (DVOs) issued in one state or territory will now apply and be enforceable in all states and territories from 25 November 2017.

Prior to this change DVOs applied only in the state or territory where they were issued.



Five new domestic violence application forms commenced on 25 November 2017 and are available via [Queensland Courts](#). They include the following:

- [DV4A - Application to vary a recognised interstate order](#)
- [DV14A - Application to register New Zealand order in Queensland](#)
- [DV16 - Application to vary or revoke the registration of an interstate order](#)
- [DV16A - Application to vary or revoke the registration of a New Zealand order](#)
- [DV35 - Application to declare a DVO to be a recognised order](#)

The application form *DV14 Application for registration in Queensland of an interstate domestic violence order* has been withdrawn and is no longer a form that can be filed in a Magistrates Court.

The approved forms have 'Queensland' pre-populated in the 'at' box where the JP or Cdec witnesses the statutory declaration component.

For further information contact JP Branch on 1300 301 147.

6. Statutory Declaration

The applicant, except if a member of the Queensland Police Service, must sign this application in the presence of a Justice of the Peace, Commissioner for Declarations, or a Solicitor

I, the applicant in this application, do solemnly and sincerely declare:

The information set out in this application, and any other attached statement, is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the *Oaths Act 1867*.

Declared by on / / at in the

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Peace and good behaviour

If someone is denied the right to enjoy their own property or in any other substantial way interfering with their quality of life they have the right to make a complaint and request the issue of a summons or a warrant under the *Peace and Good Behaviour Act 1982*.

The main justification for issuing a summons or warrant is to stop the threatened action occurring and to reduce the complainant's genuine fear.

JPs are urged to be careful about issuing a warrant under this legislation.

A warrant authorises the police to take the defendant into custody and keep them there until they appear before a Magistrates Court. If the complaint is subsequently found to be vexatious or groundless, the defendant may be able to take legal action against the complainant. Issuing a warrant in these matters is extremely rare and extreme caution should be displayed if you are considering this process.

If you consider the threat to the complainant is so serious that you are contemplating issuing a warrant, you are entitled to ask the complainant if they have contacted the police and, if so, what the response was.

You may ask the police why no action was taken. The police may have considered taking action under the *Criminal Code*. Under the *Criminal Code*, an assault is constituted by striking, touching, moving or other application of force to another person (directly or indirectly) without the person's consent. It also includes a threat to apply force if there is an actual or apparent ability to carry out the threat.

Once you have considered all the material, you may make an informed decision about whether or not to issue a warrant or a summons.

This is another occasion when you must read the entire documentation to comply with your role and responsibilities.

In order to satisfy yourself the grounds for the complaint are sufficient, you are entitled not only to question the complainant but also ask other people about the complaint.

For more information on how to issue a warrant or summons under the *Peace and Good Behaviour Act 1982*, refer to [section 5.2 of the Duties of Justice of a Peace Handbook](#).

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Land titles alert

The National Mortgage Form (NMF) was introduced in Queensland on 27 May 2017 for paper mortgages. There are three items to note with land titles:

- the transition period during which Form 2 Mortgages can still be lodged has been extended until 2 March 2018
- electronic mortgages through eConveyancing will be implemented later in 2018
- the [Land title practice manual](#) was recently updated to include Part 2A - Mortgage (National Mortgage Form).

For more information regarding the NMF refer to [Titles registry alert 134](#) and [Guide to completion - National Mortgage Form](#).

Changes to the *Marriage Act 1961*

On 7 December 2017, the Australian Parliament passed laws that will amend the federal *Marriage Act 1961* to provide for [marriage equality](#) in Australia. From 9 December 2017, the definition of marriage under Australian law is: 'the union of two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life'. The right to marry under Australian law will no longer be determined by sex or gender.

From 9 December 2017, it is legal for same-sex couples to marry in Australia. The normal requirements for giving a Notice of Intended Marriage form (NOIM) continue to apply. The NOIM must be given at least one month prior to the wedding ceremony, unless a shortening of time has been obtained from a [prescribed authority](#). The earliest a same-sex couple can give a NOIM to an authorised celebrant was 9 December 2017.

Further information about the changes to the marriage forms, and how to complete the new forms, can be found in the [changes to marriage forms and certificates](#) fact sheet. Details of the amended Act are available at www.ag.gov.au/marriageequality.

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5. Long service awards

We acknowledge the following JPs and Cdecs for their continuing dedicated service to the Queensland community. They have received their long service award since the last issue of the *JP bulletin*.



25 year service awards

Thomas	Baddock	Bradley	Marler
Paul	Box	Leanne	McIntyre
Robert	Boyes	Brian	Nelson
Roger	Brooker	Robert	Nolan
Peter	Browne	Andrew	O'Brien
Bruce	Campbell	Neville	O'Brien
Julie	Christensen	Catherine	Peereboom
Darren	Clarke	David	Pocock
Arthur	Colquhoun	Graham	Reeves
David	Earl	Derek	Richards
Leslie	Elmes	Steven	Roberts
Kristina	Gant	Noela	Rodda
Graeme	Geisler	Madonna	Roxborough
Graeme	Goodall	Paul	Sessarago
Alan	Hanley	John	Stacheel
Neil	Harding	Scott	Stavroff
Christopher	Kelso	James	Straker
Shirley	King	Brian	Thompson
Mark	Kuzevich	Gary	Thorley
Patricia	Markham	Keith	Whatmore
Timothy	Marks	Laurelle	Williams

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40 year service awards

Paul	Birrell	Warren	Hunter
Kevin	Blessington	Peter	Kelly
Robin	Bliesner	Teresa	Learmonth
Judith	Brown	Michael	Loane
John	Cox	Gregory	McIntyre
Geoffrey	Curry	Allen	Mitchell
Joyce	Davies	John	Murtagh
Leonard	Farina	Douglas	Powell
Timothy	Giles	Gilroy	Schmidt
Christopher	Gladstone	Eric	Silkstone
Terence	Glover	Howard	Simon
Terrence	Hayton	Howard	Tidd
Christopher	Hitchman	Henry	Walduck
Raymond	Hughes		

50 year service awards

Stephen	English	Annette	Riba
John	Howes	John	West
Arthur	Hunt	Glynn	Wilson

60 year service awards

Herbert	Oliver	Kevin	O'Dwyer
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Would you like to apply for a long service award? [Click here](#) to apply via JP Branch. Please supply your original date of appointment (or a rough idea) to assist with award verification. Alternatively you may choose to contact your [State member](#).