

Office of the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor

Business plan 2019–2020

About us

The Office of the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor (OWHSP) is an independent prosecution office, established by the Queensland parliament under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*, to conduct and defend proceedings for breaches of Queensland's work health and safety laws.



Purpose

Our purpose is to provide an independent prosecution service which:

- meets the expectations of our stakeholders
- responds to the priorities of our referring agencies
- contributes to the safety of Queensland workers and improving safety at Queensland workplaces.



Aim

We aim to:

- act with professionalism and consistency
- conduct our work as model litigants
- assist to support victims of workplace injuries and their families
- ensure that prosecution outcomes are shared with stakeholders.



Strategic priorities

- Provide an efficient, effective and transparent prosecution service.
- Undertake productive stakeholder engagement.
- Develop our people.



Performance measures

Effectiveness

- Compliance in applying the Guidelines of the Director of Public Prosecutions in decisions to commence, not commence, continue or discontinue a prosecution 100%.
- Prosecutions¹ resulting in a conviction 90%².
- Defendants in defended summary hearings resulting in conviction 70%.
- Defendants in defended committals resulting in a committal order 90%.
- Defendants tried on indictment and convicted 70%.
- Prosecution sentence appeals upheld 60%.



Efficiency

Briefs of evidence assessed within 90 days of referral 85%.



¹ Namely the existence of a prima facie case, reasonable prospects of conviction and that a prosecution is in the public interest.

² The conviction rate is the percentage of defendants convicted in prosecutions which proceeded to a decision or verdict. The calculation does not include defendants where the OWHSP determined not to commence a prosecution or discontinued a prosecution prior to decision or verdict. 'Conviction' includes any finding of guilt, and is not limited to prosecutions in which a conviction is recorded. It also includes prosecutions with multiple charges, where at least one charge is proven.