

Office of the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor

Business plan 2020-21

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*. OWHSP conducts and defends proceedings under Queensland's workplace and resources health and safety laws.



Purpose

Our purpose is to provide an independent prosecution service which:

- meets the expectations of our client agencies and other stakeholders
- understands the priorities of our client agencies
- contributes to the safety of Queensland workers and members of the public
- assists to improve safety at Queensland workplaces.



Aim

We aim to:

- act with courtesy and professionalism
- ensure consistency in decision-making
- work as model litigants
- support victims of workplace injuries and their families
- ensure the timely advice of decisions and outcomes to our stakeholders.



Strategic priorities

- Provide an efficient, effective and transparent prosecution service.
- Establish and maintain effective engagement with our stakeholders.
- Develop and recognise our people.



Performance measures

Effectiveness

- Compliance in applying the Guidelines of the Director of Public Prosecutions¹ in decisions to commence, not commence, continue or discontinue a prosecution 100%.
- Prosecutions² resulting in a conviction 90%.

- Defendants in defended summary hearings resulting in conviction 70%.
- Defendants tried on indictment and convicted 70%.



Efficiency

- Briefs of evidence assessed within 120 days of referral 100%.
- Pre-brief advice provided within 30 days 100%.



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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.