

Office of the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor

Business plan 2022-23

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.

Decisions of the OWHSP in relation to whether to commence or discontinue charges in proceedings are made in accordance with the guidelines of the Director of Public Prosecutions (Qld).



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.

Aim



We aim to:

- act with courtesy and professionalism
- ensure consistency in decision-making
- work as model litigants
- 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

- Prosecutions¹ resulting in a conviction ~ 90%.
- Defendants in defended summary hearings resulting in conviction ~ 70%.

- Indictments for presentation in the District Court prepared and signed within four months of the committal date ~ 60%.
- Defendants tried on indictment and convicted ~ 70%.



Efficiency

- Briefs of evidence assessed within 120 days of referral ~ 100%.



AEU22/6267

¹ 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.