

# Office of the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor

## Business plan 2023-24

### 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
- meet the expectations of our client agencies and other stakeholders
- understand the priorities of our client agencies
- contribute to the safety of Queensland workers and members of the public.



### Aim

We aim to:

- act with courtesy, professionalism and sensitivity toward the interests of client agencies, stakeholders, affected workers and families and the Queensland community
- ensure consistency in decision-making
- work as model litigants
- ensure the timely advice of decisions and outcomes to our stakeholders.



### Strategic priorities

Our strategic priorities are:

- to provide an efficient, effective and transparent prosecution service
- to establish and maintain effective engagement with our client agencies and stakeholders
- to develop and recognise our people in a healthy, diverse, collaborative, and just workplace.



### Performance measures

We perform **effectively**:

- by applying the Guidelines of the Director of Public Prosecutions in decisions to commence, not commence, continue, or discontinue a prosecution in 100% of cases
- by applying the *Human Rights Act 2019* in so far as addressing any incompatibility with a human right in our decision-making processes in 100% of cases
- by aiming to resolve 90% of cases we prosecute in conviction<sup>1</sup>
- by aiming to achieve a conviction rate of 70% in matters prosecuted in defended summary hearings
- by aiming to achieve a conviction rate of 70% in matters tried on indictment.



We perform **efficiently**:

- by aiming to assess briefs of evidence within 120 days of referral.



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<sup>1</sup> 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.