



Have you given evidence in your field of expertise to a court?

About our review

We are reviewing evidence law. Our review is broad. It covers evidence law's application in criminal and civil proceedings and in pre-trial procedures.

What is evidence?

Evidence is the material that can be given to a court to enable the fact finder (judge, magistrate or jury) to decide the matters in dispute.

What is evidence law?

Evidence law comprises the rules and legal principles that manage how facts in a legal proceeding may be proved. It regulates how evidence is gathered and presented, focusing on proving disputed facts. Evidence law is based on concepts of reliability and fairness.

Evidence law and experts

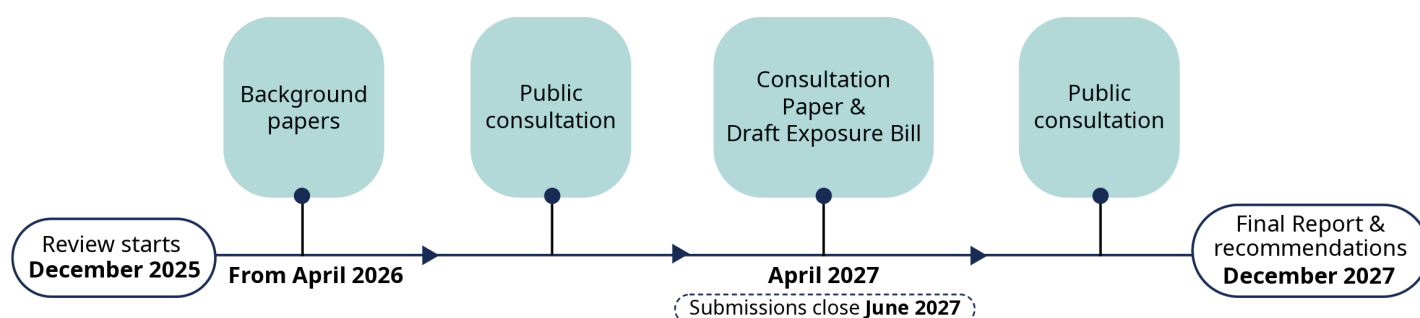
Our legal system relies on judges or juries to make decisions based on relevant evidence. Evidence can take different forms and include written and oral evidence provided by witnesses. Most witnesses are not permitted to give their opinion. Their evidence is confined to what they saw, heard or otherwise directly perceived and they are not permitted to draw conclusions from their observations.

Sometimes judges and juries need help to understand the evidence. This is why experts, like you, are called on to assist.

Key questions

- How should a court determine someone is an expert?
- Do you experience difficulties obtaining the necessary facts/information on which to base your opinion?
- How could pre-trial processes be improved to optimise the use of expert evidence?
- What would help you explain your opinion to judges or juries?
- Are there rules, practices or procedures that limit your ability to give the court the information needed to make a decision?
- What sort of factors should be considered to determine the reliability or weight to give to expert evidence?

Timeline



We want to hear from you

For further information and updates on the review, including access to our Background Paper, scan the QR code or go to www.qlrc.qld.gov.au. You can send us your feedback by emailing QLREvidenceReview@justice.qld.gov.au.

