

Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples Legal Expert Reference Committee: **Terms of Reference**

Purpose

The Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples Legal Expert Reference Committee (LERC) is established to work with the QLRC to enhance the QLRC's effective engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. A key objective in the [QLRC Strategic Plan](#) is to encourage and support people across Queensland to engage in law reform, including people from diverse and disadvantaged communities. The QLRC has a specific obligation to consult with Queensland's Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their communities to achieve its purpose of a fair, modern and simple legal framework.

The LERC will consider and be consulted on the QLRC's programs and activities as they relate to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.

Acknowledgement

Building on Australia's obligations under international human rights law, UNESCO's Universal Declaration of Cultural Diversity and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the QLRC acknowledges:

- the ongoing impact of laws and the legal system on Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their communities in Queensland
- our responsibility to contribute to the re-imagining of our relationships with Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities in Queensland
- our desire to work towards becoming models of respect and collaboration
- that it is hard to know whether our work is meeting the needs and expectations of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their communities in Queensland without effective engagement and consultation.

The QLRC establishes a consultative relationship, based on respect and collaboration, with a trusted group of people who can contribute ideas from the perspective of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their communities in Queensland.

Aims and responsibilities

Members of the LERC will work collaboratively with the QLRC to:

- identify Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their communities in Queensland who may be able assist the QLRC with any aspect of a law reform review
- assist the QLRC to appropriately engage with Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their communities in Queensland
- within a law reform review, identify laws, legal processes and frameworks that have a particular impact on Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their communities in Queensland
- within a law reform review, identify whether specific research or collaboration is required to understand the impact of laws, legal processes and frameworks on Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their communities in Queensland
- engage Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their communities in Queensland in the periodic development of a proposed program of law reform.

The LERC will also:

- raise matters with the QLRC that are relevant to our work in relation to Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their communities in Queensland
- help the QLRC to ensure our activities reflect the history, experience and culture of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their communities in Queensland
- help the QLRC to promote, engage and partner with Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their communities in Queensland in the delivery of our reviews.

Meetings

Two meetings will be held each year. Meetings may be held in person, online, or a combination of both. A QLRC Commission member will chair meetings and will invite members to collaborate on the agreed agenda for each meeting.

Members will not be remunerated for the time but their contribution to the work of the Commission will be acknowledged.

Members are welcome to invite observers to attend, including where it may be valuable for mentoring or development (such as for emerging leaders).
Membership

Any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Queenslander may nominate for membership of the LERC through personal expressions of interest.

There will be no more than seven LERC members. Application for membership will be encouraged from members of the legal profession as well as those working in justice system more broadly.

Membership will be for a term of up to 24 months, and a member may be re-appointed for up to six years.

The Chair of the QLRC will appoint members of the LERC.

Membership may be suspended or terminated in situations involving misconduct or non-attendance.

Review

These terms of reference will remain flexible and will be adapted as requirements change. They will be reviewed at least annually in the first three years.

