

About QCAT

The Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) resolves disputes and makes decisions in a way that is fair, just, accessible, quick and inexpensive.

A tribunal is less formal than a court, but still makes final decisions which can be enforced.

What type of matters does QCAT deal with?

QCAT makes decisions across a range of matters including:

- minor civil disputes e.g. someone owes you money or you have a rental property problem
- human rights e.g. anti-discrimination, guardianship and administration for adults, children and young people matters
- civil e.g. building or tree issues
- administrative e.g. reviews of decisions by government agencies
- disciplinary e.g. regulation of police and health professionals.

Who makes the decisions?

Matters are heard and decided by:

- tribunal members
- adjudicators (minor civil disputes)
- magistrates (minor civil disputes)
- trained Justices of the Peace (some minor civil disputes as part of a trial program).

Where do I access QCAT?

Outside of Brisbane, your local Magistrates Court supplies and accepts all QCAT application forms and assists with enquiries about minor civil disputes.

How much does it cost?

Fees apply for some applications – visit www.qcat.qld.gov.au or contact QCAT.

Do I need a lawyer?

Generally you must represent yourself in a QCAT matter. You must ask QCAT for permission to be represented by someone else. In some cases, you have a right to be represented by a lawyer or someone else without asking for permission e.g. if you are a child or you are involved in a disciplinary proceeding (see [Representation at QCAT](#)).

Can I get legal advice?

QCAT is an independent tribunal. Our registry staff cannot give you legal advice. We cannot tell you if you should make an application; if the tribunal has jurisdiction to deal with your case; how to word your application; what evidence you need to prove your case; what to say in a hearing; or what orders you should ask for.

To get legal advice you can contact:

- the private solicitor of your choice. The Queensland Law Society via www.qls.com.au or 07 3842 5842 can refer you to a suitable solicitor

- Legal Aid Queensland via www.legalaid.qld.gov.au or 1300 65 11 88
- the Queensland Association of Independent Legal Services (QAILS) via www.qails.org.au or 07 3392 0092 for referral to your local community legal centre.

How does QCAT resolve disputes?

We use mediation and compulsory conferencing to help parties in a dispute reach an agreement. If we cannot resolve the matter in that way, a hearing will be held and the tribunal will make a final decision.

Enforcing a QCAT decision

If a party does not comply with the QCAT decision, the decision can be enforced in a Court.

Contact information

Brisbane

Address: Level 9, BOQ Centre, 259 Queen Street, Brisbane, 4000
Post: GPO Box 1639, Brisbane Qld 4001
Phone: 1300 753 228
Email: enquiries@qcat.qld.gov.au
Website: www.qcat.qld.gov.au

Outside of Brisbane

To find your nearest Magistrates Court, look under “Justice and Attorney-General” in the phone book or visit www.courts.qld.gov.au

Stay in touch

Visit www.qcat.qld.gov.au to subscribe to *QCAT Update*. The regular e-newsletter provides updates on processes and resources.