

QCAT Practice Direction No. 1 of 2020

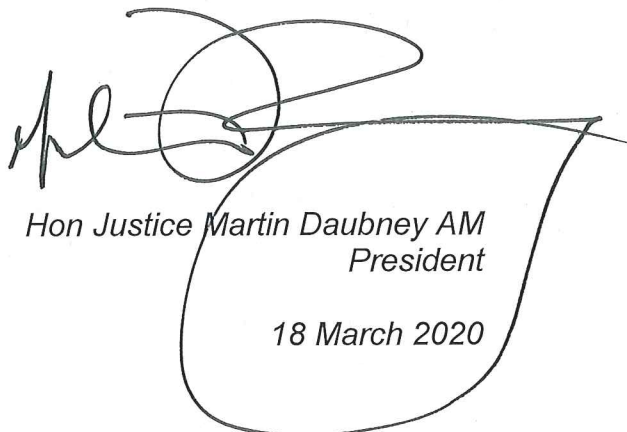
Arrangements for the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal for the week commencing 23 March 2020

Having regard to the emerging and evolving COVID-19 situation, the need to take appropriate and proportionate measures to provide healthy and safe working conditions for QCAT members, staff and the public who access QCAT's services, and the importance of QCAT continuing to deliver essential justice services to the people of Queensland, the following directions shall apply to all QCAT proceedings listed in the week commencing Monday 23 March 2020 (except those proceedings listed in regional centres before Magistrates):

1. The hearings in all non-urgent Minor Civil Disputes listed for the week commencing Monday 23 March 2020 shall be adjourned to a date to be fixed;
2. The hearings in all urgent Minor Civil Disputes will proceed as listed;
3. All Directions Hearings and Compulsory Conferences listed for the week commencing Monday 23 March 2020 shall be conducted by telephone; there are to be no personal appearances in any Directions Hearings and Compulsory Conferences next week;
4. In all other hearings listed for the week commencing Monday 23 March 2020 which are not Guardianship matters:
 - a) the parties are to be encouraged to attend by telephone, but on the basis that if they attend by telephone they will not be able to file or tender any further material on the day of the hearing;
 - b) if a party nevertheless insists on appearing in person, they must provide written reasons for wishing to proceed in that manner, in which case it will be a matter for the relevant member to determine, in their discretion, whether the proceeding shall proceed or be adjourned to a date to be fixed;
5. All Guardianship matters shall proceed in accordance with the present listing for the week commencing Monday 23 March 2020, but on the basis that parties are strongly encouraged to attend by telephone;
6. Only telephone mediations conducted at QCAT by Dispute Resolution Branch shall proceed as listed during the week commencing Monday 23 March 2020; any other mediations shall be adjourned to a date to be fixed;

7. Every party, witness and member of the public who wishes to attend in person at a QCAT hearing during the week commencing Monday 23 March 2020 shall, before being admitted to the hearing room, provide written details of their full name, address, and contact telephone number and written confirmation that the person:

- a) has not been diagnosed with COVID-19;
- b) has not been required to submit to a COVID-19 test;
- c) has not been in close contact with another who already has COVID-19 such as to require the person to self-quarantine (in accordance with Queensland Government guidelines and recommendations);
- d) is not suffering any of the symptoms of COVID-19; and
- e) has not returned from overseas within the preceding 14 days.



*Hon Justice Martin Daubney AM
President*

18 March 2020