

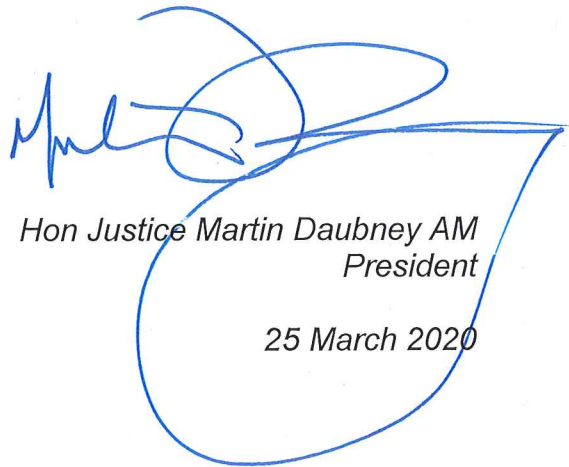
QCAT Practice Direction No. 4 of 2020

COVID-19 Arrangements for QCAT matters (other than Guardianship and Urgent MCD Tenancy matters) from Monday, 30 March 2020

1. Practice Direction 2 of 2020 provides specific directions relating to the ongoing hearing of Guardianship matters.
2. Practice Direction 3 of 2020 provides specific directions relating to the ongoing hearing of Urgent Minor Civil Dispute Tenancy matters.
3. Subject to paragraph 12, this Practice Direction applies to all other QCAT matters.
4. The hearings in all non-urgent Minor Civil Disputes which have been listed to be heard at 259 Queen St, Brisbane **from 30 March 2020** shall be adjourned to a date to be fixed. Any matter so adjourned shall be reviewed by the Tribunal with a view to ascertaining whether the matter requires an urgent telephone hearing, can proceed by way of a non-urgent telephone hearing, can be determined on the papers, or will be placed in the list of matters awaiting further hearing dates.
5. All other hearings (including appeals) which have been listed to be heard at 259 Queen Street, Brisbane in **the week commencing 30 March 2020** shall be conducted by telephone unless the presiding member determines in any particular case that the hearing should be adjourned to a date to be fixed.
6. Any other hearing (including appeal) which has been listed to be heard at 259 Queen Street, Brisbane on any date **between 6 April 2020 and 26 June 2020** shall be adjourned to a date to be fixed. Any matter so adjourned shall be reviewed by the Tribunal with a view to ascertaining whether the matter requires an urgent telephone hearing, can proceed by way of a non-urgent telephone hearing, can be determined on the papers, or will be placed in the list of matters awaiting further hearing dates.
7. From 30 March 2020, and until further notice, all Directions Hearings and Compulsory Conferences shall be conducted by telephone.
8. From 30 March 2020, and until further notice, Dispute Resolution Branch shall continue to conduct telephone mediations only; all other mediations shall be adjourned to a date to be fixed.
9. If a person wishes to make an **urgent** application to QCAT (other than in a Guardianship or Urgent Minor Civil Dispute Tenancy matter), the person shall

first email the QCAT Registry to make arrangements for the filing and hearing of any such application: enquiriesqcat@justice.qld.gov.au

10. Otherwise, for any **non-urgent** QCAT matters, parties should continue to file documents in the conventional manner (including over the counter and by post) as described on the QCAT website at: qcat.qld.gov.au/applications/lodging-your-application-and-forms
11. For any QCAT hearing other than an Urgent Minor Civil Dispute Tenancy matter which is listed to be heard by a QCAT member or adjudicator at a Magistrates Court, arrangements will be made for such hearings to be adjourned to a date to be fixed. The Tribunal will consider whether the hearing can proceed by telephone or videoconference or is able to be dealt with “on the papers” and inform the parties accordingly.
12. This Practice Direction **does not apply** to any non-urgent Minor Civil Dispute proceeding filed in a Magistrates Court Registry which is to be heard by a Magistrate. Arrangements for the case management and hearing of such matters is within the discretion and direction of the Chief Magistrate and the relevant Regional Co-Ordinating Magistrate.



*Hon Justice Martin Daubney AM
President*

25 March 2020