

QCAT Practice Direction No. 8 of 2020

COVID-19 ARRANGEMENTS FOR QCAT MATTERS (other than those to which Practice Directions 2, 3, 6 and 7 of 2020 applies) from Monday, 3 August 2020

1. This Practice Direction replaces Practice Direction 4 of 2020.
2. This Practice Direction applies to all QCAT matters other than those to which Practice Directions 2, 3, 6 and 7 of 2020 apply (that is, other than Guardianship and Minor Civil Disputes).
3. From 3 August 2020, and until further notice, Directions Hearings and Compulsory Conferences shall be conducted by telephone, unless otherwise ordered by the Tribunal in particular cases.
4. From 3 August 2020, and until further notice, mediations shall be conducted by telephone, unless otherwise ordered by the Tribunal in particular cases.
5. Unless otherwise ordered by the Tribunal in particular cases, all in person hearings to which this Practice Direction applies, which have been listed to be heard at 259 Queen Street, Brisbane or by a QCAT Member or Adjudicator at a Magistrates Court, on any date between **3 August 2020** and **31 August 2020** shall be adjourned to a date to be fixed.
6. 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. Subject always to the overriding discretion of the member or adjudicator conducting each hearing, it is expected that all hearings will be heard remotely (by telephone or videoconference) or on the papers (in appropriate cases),¹ unless a party demonstrates that there are exceptional circumstances which justify a hearing in person.
8. 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
9. 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

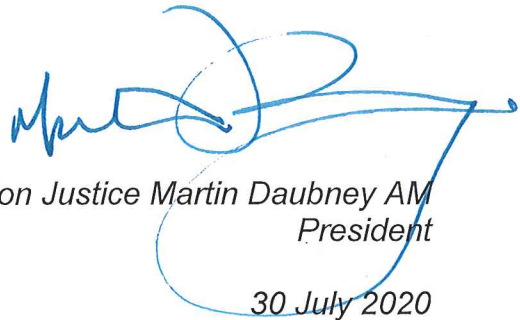
¹ Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009 (QCAT Act) s 32.

described on the QCAT website at:
<https://www.qcat.qld.gov.au/applications/lodging-your-application-and-forms>

PERSONAL APPEARANCES BEFORE QCAT

10. In an exceptional circumstance case in which personal appearance by a person before a QCAT member or adjudicator has been authorised, that person 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) is not presently awaiting the results of 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, or Queensland Government declared hotspots, within the preceding 14 days.



Hon Justice Martin Daubney AM
President
30 July 2020