New Statutory Declaration Form and fact sheets

The Department of Justice has been leading a process to review, consult and develop a new Statutory Declaration Form that reflects the amendments to the *Oaths Act 1867* (Oaths Act).

Following significant consultation over 2023 and 2024, the following documents have been published on the <u>Queensland Government Publications Portal</u> for use from 3 February 2025:

- Statutory Declaration Form in word and PDF format
- Fact sheets:
 - Who can witness a statutory declaration or affidavit in Queensland;
 - Who can sign a statutory declaration or affidavit as a substitute signatory;
 - \circ $\;$ Witness information for statutory declarations or affidavits; and
 - History of law reform.

The Statutory Declaration Form complies with the requirements of the Oaths Act and can be used to make any type of statutory declaration, whether it is signed physically or electronically, witnessed by someone in person or via audio visual link, or signed by the signatory or a substitute signatory.

Key changes to the Statutory Declaration Form include:

- streamlined form in plain English, with guidance materials in the margins and footnotes;
- accompanying fact sheets that assist the signatory and witness, that are separate from (and reduce the length of) the form; and
- inclusion of a prompt that advises the signatory and witness that the address of the signatory, and place of signing, can be expressed in a method that is the least revealing, if there are concerns or it would be unsafe to reveal this information. For example, due to domestic, family or sexual violence.

For guidance on completing the new form, please refer to the notes in the left-hand margin of the form. More guidance on making a statutory declaration can be found at www.qld.gov.au/legaldocuments.

Updated Personal Injuries Proceedings Act 2002 forms

At the same time, the following three Notice of Claim forms approved for use under the *Personal Injuries Proceedings Act 2002* have also been modified to reflect the amendments to the Oaths Act and published on the <u>Queensland Government Publications Portal</u>:

- Form 1—Non-Health Care Claims (Version 6)
- Form 2—Health Care Claims (Version 6)
- Form 3—Dependency Claims (Version 5)

Kate Connors Deputy Director-General Justice Policy and Reform Department of Justice

