



The Evolving Role of the JP

QJA CONFERENCE

Hotel Grand Chancellor

23 Leichhardt Street, Spring Hill,
Queensland 4000

**SATURDAY 1ST
JUNE 2024**

Meet our Speakers



Professor Stafford Shepherd
Legal Practitioner Director, QLS
Solicitor Support Queensland Law
Society | Adjunct Professor, School of
Law and Justice, University of
Southern Queensland

About Sttafford

Stafford was admitted as a solicitor in 1987, after admission he practised for a number of years in partnership and subsequently as a sole practitioner. Between 2004 and 2008 he worked as a consultant to a number of law practices. In 2008 he joined the Queensland Law Society as an Ethics Guidance Officer. Between 2015 and 2020 Stafford served as Director, QLS Ethics and Practice Centre.

In October 2019 Stafford was appointed as Legal Practitioner Director of QLS Solicitor Support Pty Ltd, a wholly owned incorporated legal practice of Queensland Law Society.

Stafford is the executive editor of the Australian Solicitors Conduct Rules 2012 in Practice: A Commentary for Australian Legal Practitioners and has written extensively on legal ethics.

Stafford is an Adjunct Professor at the School of Law and Justice, University of Southern Queensland and a sessional member at the Queensland University of Technology. He holds a Bachelor of Laws and Master of Laws (Commercial and Corporate) from the University of Queensland, a postgraduate certificate in arbitration and mediation from the University of Adelaide. Stafford is also a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP).

His topic

Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of Declarations, hold important offices within our community and form an important part of the separation of powers whereby justice is administered. As with any officer of the judiciary, Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of Declarations must be aware of the ethical framework upon which they are required to administer justice or perform their responsibilities. This presentation will examine the evolving role of the Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of Declarations in the 21st century with a particular regard to the fundamental ethical principles which ensure the rule of law.

Meet our Speakers



Lisa Blyth
Clinical Nurse Consultant
Metro North Voluntary Assisted Dying

About Lisa

Lisa trained in New Zealand as a Registered Nurse, before moving to Darwin in 2012.

Lisa specialised in Emergency and Intensive Care for both Adults and Neonates and has extensive experience in acute end of life.

Having seen many traumatic deaths, she has dedicated her career to ensuring anyone facing the end of their life that comes into her care has a dignified and peaceful death.

Her topic

Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) became legal in Queensland in January 2023. All states in Australia are now offer VAD. There is a nine-day assessment process and legal documentation to be completed.

Fatigue and isolation can prevent many of our patients from completing the process so ensuring equal opportunity is paramount. There is a strict criteria and assessment process that needs to be completed before anyone can access VAD.

As trusted members of the community, JPs may or will be approached to assist patients with completing the required documentation as a witness.

Meet our Speakers



Tilé Imo

Associate Practice Director
Health Justice Partnerships
Caxton Legal Centre

About Tilé

Tilé started practicing law in 2013 and has been a solicitor in Caxton's Family, Domestic Violence and Elder Law Practice since 2016.

Prior to this, he was a volunteer solicitor at Caxton Legal Centre from 2014 during his early career in private practice. Tilé is committed to helping people in difficult family situations navigate and understand complex legal systems. During his career, his practice areas have been in family, domestic violence, crime, and elder law.

In 2019, Tilé was promoted to coordinating lawyer of Queensland's first health justice partnership for elder abuse with Metro South Health, which has now expanded to Metro North Health. In 2023, he also helped to co-design and establish Queensland's first multicultural health justice partnership with World Wellness Group. Tilé has been invited to speak about human rights and elder abuse issues at regional, national and local events.

In 2022, Tilé was awarded the Emerging Leader Award by the Queensland Law Society and was shortlisted for the Access to Justice Award in the same year.

His extracurricular activities also include being a member (and former president) of the Pasifika Lawyers Association of Queensland and co-host of a podcast about diversity in the legal profession called 'Tilé and Olly Meets'.

His topic

Australia's first ever National Elder Abuse Prevalence Study into elder abuse found that one in six Australians over the age of 65 have experienced some form of elder abuse.

This presentation will discuss what shape and form elder abuse may look like in the community.

It will also explore some of the ways in which JPs may be able to assist to safeguard human rights of people experiencing or at risk of elder abuse.

Meet our Speakers



Tex O'Grady, OAM JP(Qual)

About Tex

For Tex O'Grady, being awarded an Order of Australia Medal in 2022 for his tireless charity work is tinged with sadness.

The former Navy officer rode his motorcycle along with his cattle dog, Bundy, more than 900,000 kilometres around the country to help prostate cancer and mental health charities raise awareness — and more than \$6 million — over the past 12 years.

After more than a decade of charity work and visiting the elderly and unwell in hospitals, he's heartbroken not to have been able to share in the Australia Day Honour with Bundy, who died in 2021 aged 13.

"I only wish that she was there," Mr O'Grady said. "She was a beautiful dog."

He said Bundy and his other dogs, Cash (also deceased) and Sheila, had been vital to his work, particularly when he visited people in hospitals. Bundy and Cash's ashes now have a special place on his motorbike and on his yacht, Mystic.

The former Coffs Harbour resident started a sailing program in 2021 to support veterans and those with PTSD. "As much as an animal has a calming effect on people, I think the sea does as well — not in rough conditions, of course, but on a nice day," Mr O'Grady said.

"To be out there sailing has a really nice, calming effect for people.

"They're out there with people with similar problems and they can open up and talk about it."

Tex undertook the training to become a JP with QJA, completing the course in February 2023 and was appointed in May 2023 and volunteers at signing sites around the Gold Coast.

Meet our Speakers



Karl McKenzie JP(Mags Crt)

About Karl

Karl McKenzie is a respected Indigenous Elder, residing in Townsville and of Koori heritage. He is a serving member of the Central and North Queensland Regional Parole Board and the Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board. He is also the Chair of the Townsville Community Justice Group.

Karl has served on many committees and boards and has worked with high-risk youth and as a counsellor of the Indigenous Men's Domestic Violence Group.

His topic

Karl will present on the Murri courts, how they work and how they work to link Indigenous defendants to cultural and support services, helping them to make positive changes in their lives and prevent re-offending.

Elders or respected persons from the community participate in the courtroom, guiding and encouraging defendants whilst also helping magistrates understand the defendant's personal and cultural circumstances.

Meet our Speakers



Brent Pettersson (JP Qual)
Senior Community Engagement Officer,
Justices of the Peace Branch

About Brent

Brent Pettersson is one of the Senior Community Engagement Officers at the Justices of the Peace Branch in the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. He has worked in both the JPs in the Community Program and Professional Development and Community Engagement teams and has extensive knowledge of the role and responsibilities of a Justice of the Peace and Commissioner for Declarations and what skills are needed to offer the public a professional and competent witnessing service. Brent delivers professional development opportunities to Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations across Queensland as well as the drafting and publishing of formal publications.

Brent obtained his Bachelor of Business Management with a major in Marketing from the University of Queensland in 2015 and upon graduating, Brent started his career in the print and digital media industry and helped businesses connect with their customers all around the world. He then joined the Justices of the Peace Branch in 2019 and has continued to improve the way the public can have their documents witnessed by a Justice of the Peace or Commissioner for Declarations.

Brent was instrumental in recommencing the JPs in the Community Program safely and efficiently during the coronavirus pandemic and also trained the first group of special witnesses who have since assisted thousands of people all around the country and world have their Queensland documents witnessed online. He has a keen interest in technology and how it can improve all aspects of our personal and professional lives.

He is also the site coordinator of the Yamanto Central JPs in the Community Program signing site and volunteers at a number of volunteer sites across Ipswich.

His topic

Brent will present on the JPs in the Community Program, and it's future in the digital world

Meet our Speakers



Wendy La Macchia (JP Qual)
Business Manager/Registrar,
Queensland Justices Association

About Wendy

Wendy has been the Business Manager\Registrar with QJA since 2014. As well as running the business side of the association, she is the CEO of the RTO as registered with ASQA and the company secretary as registered with ASIC.

Over that time she has seen many changes in the association, the board, branches, membership and training courses. She completed a Graduate Certificate in Management in 2021 and a Graduate Diploma in Applied Governance in 2023.

She has seen QJA through some good times (celebrating 100 years of QJA in 2018) and some challenging ones (COVID-19 in 2020-21) as well as an office relocation and re-registration of QJA as an RTO.

She has also seen through 5 board terms and worked with the board as both company secretary and executive for QJA.

Her topic

Wendy will present on the history of QJA over the decades - a recap of the history compiled by John Carpendale for the QJA Centenary in 2018.

Meet our MC



Leanne Simpson JP(Qual)
Trainer and Assessor
Qld Justices Association

Leanne is a QJA Trainer and Assessor. She holds a Bachelor of Training and Diploma of Training and Assessment and was appointed as a JP (Qual) in 2009. She has been with QJA since June 2022 and delivers the classroom pre-appointment courses 10794NAT and 10793NAT for QJA.

Meet our Dinner Speaker



Chris Ronto
Carpenter Joiner at Australian Antarctic
Division

About Chris

Chris has just returned from a stint in Antarctica at the Davis research station. Whilst there he undertook the 10794NAT Course online with QJA and completed the course in January 2024. He will talk about life at the station and in one of the coldest places on earth.