

Self Representation Service

QCAT

What is the Self Representation Service?

The Self Representation Service offers free legal advice and assistance to people considering or involved in proceedings in the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT). The Service is operated by LawRight, an independent, non-profit community based legal organisation that coordinates pro bono legal services for individuals and community groups.

Who is eligible for assistance from the Self Representation Service?

We can assist in the following QCAT areas:

- Anti-discrimination;
- Blue Card;
- Child Safety;
- Guardianship and administration;
- Right to information and information privacy;
- Victim Assist; and
- Appeals of decisions made by QCAT in the above areas.

What assistance we can provide

With the assistance of volunteer lawyers and barristers, LawRight will:

- give you legal advice to help you make informed decisions;

- assist you in drafting documents, including forms, statements, submissions and correspondence;
- suggest other options for resolution of the proceedings;
- refer your case, if appropriate, for further advice, support or representation; and
- help you represent yourself in the best possible way.

What assistance we cannot provide

We cannot:

- be responsible if a limitation period expires before you can be assisted by the Service;
- take carriage of your legal problem or proceeding;
- represent you on the QCAT record or at hearings;
- sign any documents on your behalf;
- communicate with the tribunal, the other parties or legal representatives on your behalf; or
- pay for any fees, disbursements or costs orders incurred by you.



When we cannot assist

We may refuse to assist if:

- your case does not have a good chance of succeeding;
- your case is so urgent or complex, that the Service cannot effectively assist you in time;
- you do not comply with QCAT orders or accept our advice;
- you can afford private legal assistance;
- you are eligible for legal aid; or
- the Service has a conflict of interest.

How does the Self Representation Service operate?

Once LawRight receives your application for assistance, your matter will be assessed for eligibility. If you are eligible for assistance, you will be contacted to arrange a 1 hour consultation with a volunteer lawyer. Further appointments can be made as necessary. If you live outside of Brisbane your appointment may be by telephone.

The Service is staffed by volunteer lawyers attending on a rostered basis, so you will

be unlikely to see the same lawyer in later appointments. The Service briefs its volunteers before appointments so that you do not need to retell your story every time you attend.

If you are not eligible for assistance from the Service, you will be notified of our reasons in writing.

The Service will not provide you with legal advice if you do not have a scheduled appointment. However, the Service may provide general information and help you to complete the LawRight application form on a drop-in basis.

How do I apply for assistance from the Self Representation Service?

If you would like assistance from the Service you should complete an application form (available at the registry, our office or on the LawRight website, www.lawright.org.au) and sign the terms and conditions. If required, our staff can help you to read, understand and complete these documents.

This Service is located at:

Level 11

259 Queen Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

Office hours: Tuesday to Thursday
9am to 5pm

Contact us:

E: srsadmin@lawright.org.au

T: 07 3006 2324

F: 07 3846 6311

P: LawRight, PO Box 12217

GEORGE STREET QLD 4003

