

From the Speaker

During the 2024-25 financial year, the Queensland Parliamentary Service experienced a high volume of operational activity, in addition to the dissolution of the 57th Parliament and the State Opening of the 58th Parliament.

As the organisation providing the foundational support to the work of the Legislative Assembly and its Committees, the Parliamentary Service is responsible for facilitating a diverse range of essential services, including:

- Providing the IT, corporate and business services required for the successful operation of 93 Members of Parliament both within the parliamentary precinct and their electorates, including office facilities and supplies, travel arrangements, accommodation and staffing to support their roles.
- Managing the heritage-listed Parliament House building and the Parliamentary Annexe in Brisbane, as well as 97 electorate offices across Queensland, including refurbishments, relocations, fit-out and leasing management.
- Community engagement and accessibility activities, including parliamentary education programs and youth parliaments (including Junior Indigenous Youth Parliaments), operation and maintenance of the parliamentary website, social media channels and live streaming of Parliament, production of records of proceeding with written and archived footage, coordination of functions and events, and parliamentary precinct access and tours.

Strengthening democracy through engagement

Over the last financial year, at Queensland Parliament, we welcomed 77,900 visitors to the parliamentary precinct, including 17,485 students.

We hosted Diplomatic and Consular visitors representing Canada, China, Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Romania, Spain, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates and Vanuatu.

In May, I was honoured to host the Honourable Felix, Speaker of the Parliament of Vanuatu and a delegation of members, to co-sign the new 10-year parliamentary partnership agreement, further reinforcing the relationship between the Vanuatu and Queensland unicameral parliaments.

Committees in action

In the last financial year, the Parliamentary Committee Office maintained a high level of activity overseeing 161 public hearings and briefings, with 30 held outside Brisbane, conducted 205 private meetings, processed 3,735 submissions and examined 31 bills.

A landmark year for inclusive civic education

On 9 September 2024, the Queensland Parliamentary Education team proudly facilitated the first ever Deaf Youth Parliament, in partnership with Deaf Connect, Bus Stop Films and Education Queensland. Forty-four Deaf secondary school students from all over the state, participated in a Deaf Youth Parliament conducted entirely in Auslan, assuming roles as Youth Members and delivering speeches on key issues impacting the Deaf community.

Additionally, the education team hosted 23,699 attendees for public service seminars, youth parliaments, secondary school programs, tertiary and TAFE presentations, First Nations activities and tours.

Further, the team conducted 37 virtual activities with 1,151 participants and organised another 30 activities in regional locations, including Townsville and Kingaroy, reaching another 1,042 participants.

State Opening of Parliament

Following the October 2024 election, the Parliamentary Service professionally delivered the Official Opening of the 58th State Parliament, maintaining the great tradition, governance and ceremony, including a Vice Regal Salute, Inspection of the Guard, the swearing in of Members of Parliament, the election of the Speaker, Royal Approbation at Government House, the Governor's opening speech and the first sitting of the new Parliament.

100 Women in Parliament

The 2024 election saw the 100th women elected to Queensland Parliament, a significant milestone that we commemorated via various special events and activities throughout the year. In further celebration, a statue of Irene Longman, the first female member of the Queensland Parliament, has been commissioned. The statue will depict Mrs Longman 'eating at a table', symbolising the isolation and challenges she faced during her time in office.

A taste of Queensland at Parliament

Parliamentary Catering Services remains committed to supporting local Queensland producers, working with over 30 local suppliers and distributors to showcase the best local fresh food and produce. The Strangers' Dining Room now offers a selection of 22 Queensland made beverages, while the Lucinda Bar proudly highlights Queensland spirits.

Showcasing Parliament's history online

In 2023, the Parliamentary Library introduced the Vernon Heritage Management system, marking a significant step forward in managing and sharing the Parliament's heritage collections.

This new platform enables the creation and publication of online displays and content, drawing directly from the rich resources documented in the Vernon database.

Additional items of interest have been added to the Vernon platform over the last 12 months, including the O'Donovan Catalogue Origins Collection, Speaker Portrait Collection, Heritage Menus, and historic photographs of Brisbane.

Modernising spaces to better serve Parliament

The Annexe Tower refurbishment continued in 2024-25, addressing significant waterproofing issues on level 7; delivering new dedicated committee hearing rooms on level 3, with broadcast standard AV systems and a purpose-built control room; and redeveloping office spaces for committees, library, IT services and corporate services. With Stage 2 now complete, work has commenced on Stage 3, improving office, kitchen and dining spaces on level 6.

Speaker's Green refreshed

Earlier this year, the Speaker's Green underwent remediation works, which involved excavating almost 30 cubic metres of soil to correct ground levels, before undergoing a full replacement of irrigation and installation of new green couch turf, which has dramatically improved the surface of the space.

Digital Transformation

Over the past year, there have been a range of initiatives delivered to help modernise the way we recruit, induct, support and develop our staff, both on the precinct and in electorate offices.

The new learning management system, named ParLELearn was launched in November 2024. This was initially rolled out in-house, and then to electorate office new starters after the October election. The key benefit of the ParLELearn system is it can be used to deliver both customised and general learning material that can be completed in a self-paced way.

Since January 2024, the Parliamentary Service has been progressively delivering its comprehensive upgrade of the Precinct's audio-visual systems to support the work of the Parliament and its committees.

In 2024-25 the focus was an upgrade of the Assembly Chamber and its systems. Additionally, the upgrade works continued with the introduction of the new Committee Conferencing systems, the construction of two new contemporary Committee Rooms on level 3, the upgrade of the existing Undumbi and Dandiir rooms.

Supporting reconciliation

Driven by the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Working Group, the Parliamentary Service delivered key outcomes as planned for in the service's second RAP. In November, the Reconciliation Garden within the parliamentary precinct was officially opened and celebrated, with Elders, community members and staff.

Planning also commenced on the Parliamentary Service's third RAP, aimed at introducing new initiatives, while applying lessons and learnings from our journey since 2020, to further support reconciliation.

Graduate Program success

The Parliamentary Service's inaugural Graduate Program commenced in February 2023, designed to engage graduates via a full time two-year temporary employment contract, with places reserved for First Peoples graduates. A second First Peoples graduate joined the Service in May of 2024. Following the success of the original program, the second cohort of graduates commenced in February of 2025.

I extend the sincere appreciation of the Members of the 58th Parliament to the Executive Leadership Team, under the stewardship of the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, and to all Parliamentary Service staff. Their dedication and professionalism have been instrumental in fulfilling the operational responsibilities of the Parliamentary Service with excellence.



Honourable Pat Weir MP

Speaker of the Queensland Legislative Assembly