1. The *Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009* (QCAT Act) establishes Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal as an independent tribunal and provides for the appointment of members. QCAT commenced operation on 1 December 2009 and amalgamated 18 of the State’s tribunals and other bodies into one, providing a single gateway through which the community can access civil and administrative justice.
2. Section 4 of the QCAT Act provides that QCAT has the following functions:
3. facilitate access to its services throughout Queensland;
4. encourage the early and economical resolution of disputes before QCAT, including, if appropriate, through alternative dispute resolution processes;
5. ensure proceedings are conducted in an informal way that minimises costs to parties, and is as quick as is consistent with achieving justice;
6. ensure like cases are treated alike;
7. ensure accessibility and responsiveness to the diverse needs of persons who use QCAT;
8. maintain specialist knowledge, expertise and experience of members and adjudicators;
9. ensure the appropriate use of the knowledge, expertise and experience of members and adjudicators;
10. encourage members and adjudicators to act in a way that promotes the collegiate nature of QCAT; and
11. maintain a cohesive organisational structure.
12. Cabinet endorsed that Mr Terence Joseph King and the Honourable James Burrows Thomas AM be recommended to the Governor in Council for appointment as ordinary sessional members of the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal for a term of five years commencing from the day following Governor in Council approval.
13. *Attachments*
* Nil.