1. Section 41 of the *Professional Standards Act 2004* (the Act) provides for the establishment of the Professional Standards Council (PSC).
2. The PSC’s functions are defined in section 43 of the Act. The main function is to assess applications made by occupational associations under the Act for approval of a scheme to limit the occupational liability of the members of the association. The PSC also advises the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Attorney-General) of schemes approved, advises occupational associations about insurance suitable for schemes, encourages and improves occupational standards and self-regulation of schemes; and monitors compliance of associations and their members with schemes.
3. Section 45 of the Act provides for the appointment of 11 members to the Queensland PSC by the Attorney-General. Section 46 provides for the appointment of one of the members as Chairperson of the PSC and another member as the Deputy Chairperson.
4. All Australian jurisdictions have a PSC in place and have enacted similar professional standards legislation. To ensure consistency in decision making and parity in standards required of professionals across Australia, an agreement was reached at a national level through both the then Ministerial Forums on Insurance and the then Standing Committee of Attorneys-General to enter into an agreement dealing with the operation of PSCs.
5. The *Professional Standards Agreement 2011* (the Agreement) provides that all relevant Ministers will use their best endeavours to appoint the same 11 members to each jurisdictional PSC, using a specific nomination formula under which Queensland has one nomination to the 11 member group. The Agreement also provides for a common administrative secretariat and uniformity in fees payable under each jurisdiction’s legislation.
6. Cabinet noted the intention of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence to appoint Ms Elizabeth Shearer as the Queensland Member to the Professional Standards Council for a term of three years commencing on and from the date of Ministerial approval.
7. Cabinet noted the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence will nominate Ms Shearer for appointment as the Queensland representative to the Professional Standards Councils of other Australian jurisdictions.
8. *Attachments*:
* Nil.