

Terms of reference

Review of the *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003*

Background

The *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003* (the Act) provides for the registration of life events including births, deaths and marriages, official changes of name and sex, and other matters. The Act also governs access to information, the issuing of life event certificates, the collection and dissemination of statistical information and verification of identity.

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General is leading a review of the Act. This project is part of the revitalisation of the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (RBDM) program which is aimed at modernising and redesigning RBDM services to improve access by community members, achieve business efficiencies and make RBDM information easier to release and use. Revitalising RBDM will ensure that high quality, effective and efficient services are delivered to the Queensland community now and into the future.

Issues the review will consider

The review of the Act will consider and provide advice and recommendations to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice on amendments to the Act.

The purpose of the review is to:

1. recommend changes to modernise, clarify and update the Act and simplify its operation;
2. examine how processes and the services delivered under the Act can be made more efficient, effective and accessible to members of the community, including by:
 - (a) allowing a wider range of transactions to be conducted electronically;
 - (b) encouraging the use of electronic registration; and
 - (c) providing for information and certificates to be issued electronically;
3. consider changes that may be appropriate to reflect the nature of contemporary family relationships; and
4. explore changes to support the appropriate release and use of information, subject to privacy considerations, to private and public sector agencies for statistical, identity management and commercial purposes.

Issues that fall outside the scope of the review include:

- current arrangements for the registration of same-sex relationships;
- surrogacy laws; and
- the legal recognition of traditional Torres Strait Islander adoptions.

The review, which will support the Queensland Government's commitment to better services for Queenslanders, should also identify any opportunities to reduce the regulatory burden on business and the community.