



# SUPREME COURT OF QUEENSLAND

CHAMBERS OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

## STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF QUEENSLAND

I publicly said to the people of Queensland that I would be willing to leave the office of Chief Justice if this is in the overall best interests of Queenslanders. By that I mean if the net gain of leaving exceeds that of staying. Since I stated this publicly, the disharmony between me and some judges has been played out in the media.

The public deserve resolution to this situation immediately. But they deserve much more than that. These recent revelations shine a light on serious cultural and structural problems within the judiciary. These problems had their origins and were festering long before I was appointed to bring in needed reforms.

Those resistant to change and modernisation have made it their primary goal to force me out, seemingly at all costs. I am willing to resign on just terms, not for them, not because of them, but to break the impasse we now find ourselves at. In mid-April I met with the Attorney-General in private and informed her of my offer.

With this gesture, I aim to bring to the judiciary, all sides of politics and appropriate legal and community leaders together to negotiate a solution for the leadership of the courts and to build shared commitment to and a clear framework for meaningful reform.

My giving up the role won't solve these problems. I offer it in the hope to refocus the conversation on the real issues. I am willing to do so only on just terms and if I am confident action will be taken towards the improvements Queenslanders need and expect.

Over the next week, I hope that those with the power and the responsibility, who care about the Supreme Court will join me at the table to work this out together. I will be making no further statements. On Friday, I will present a clear vision for change and a pathway to a transparent, trustworthy, accountable 21<sup>st</sup> century court system we can all be confident in. I deeply hope that this vision will be accompanied by a mandated, bipartisan, action plan worthy of the civil society our hard working courts strive to support every day.

Queen Elizabeth II Courts of Law  
415 George Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000  
PO Box 15167  
City East QLD 4002  
PH 61 7 3247 4279  
FX 61 7 3247 4206  
[www.courts.qld.gov.au](http://www.courts.qld.gov.au)

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