

From the Department of Justice

# Justice of the Peace Database



The publicly accessible database maintained by the Department of Justice is available on the Department's website and is the source for current JPs in Tasmania: <https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/justice-of-the-peace/find>.

Members of the public can search via suburb, postcode or name, or search for JPs who are proficient in a language other than English.

In recent times, following concerns expressed by JP Associations, we have removed JP numbers from publication to mitigate the risk of the fraudulent use a JP's name and number.

As some JPs may be aware, issues have been identified with the transition from the *Justices Act 1959* to the new *Justices of the Peace Act 2018*. At the time of transition, all JPs were required to notify the Secretary of the Department that they wished to continue in the office. Unfortunately, some JPs didn't receive the correspondence from the Department and some didn't respond even though they wished to continue undertaking the role.

To correct the current issues with the JP database, the Department has been working with the Tasmanian Electoral Commission to match data, update contact details and improve the overall design of the database.

Some final tidying up of the database is underway and that work is expected to be completed in the near future.

The Department then intends to make contact with all former JPs who did not return a form in late 2018 or early 2019 or where there are any concerns or inconsistencies identified with their appointments.

This process should ensure that the database is accurate. However, we very much rely on JPs to provide updated details to the Department, including changes in name, address, contact telephone numbers or emails – you can do this by writing to the Secretary of the Department at GPO Box 825, Hobart, 7001, by emailing [JP@justice.tas.gov.au](mailto:JP@justice.tas.gov.au) or through the Department's website: <https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/justice-of-the-peace/how-to-change-your-details>.

While this work has been occurring on the database, there has been some delay in updating changes in details. This will be addressed as soon as possible.

Once complete we will also be in a position to remove any middle names published on the Find a JP page. This has not been possible to date because of the layout of the current data.

In recent times the Department has devoted additional resources to managing the administration of JPs. From March 2021, a new Executive Officer is working approximately two days a week in the JP area to work on improvements to the database, manage expressions of interest and appointments and to update changes in details and other administrative tasks.

In the longer term, it is intended that this role will also contribute to other initiatives in the JP area, including revision of the JP website pages and the development of new resources.

The Department would like to publicly thank the Tasmanian Electoral Commission for the significant amount of work they have undertaken to ensure the accuracy of information included on the JP database.