1. Assistance dogs have been trained to assist people with physical, neurological or sensory disabilities to do everyday tasks. These include activities such as opening and shutting doors for a person in a wheelchair, turning light switches on and off, pressing pedestrian crossing buttons, retrieving items that have fallen on the ground and alerting people if their handler is in difficulty, for example, if the person is having a seizure. Assistance dogs also go with their handler into public places so that they do not have to be accompanied by another person.
2. The Guide, Hearing and Assistance Dogs Bill 2008 will help Queenslanders with a disability who rely on assistance dogs for support to participate more easily in society by repealing the *Guide Dogs Act 1972* and providing for guide, hearing and assistance dogs in one piece of contemporary legislation.
3. The Bill also repeals the *Legacy Trust Fund Act 2001*. The Legacy Trust Fund contained funds to be used for the benefit of the vision impaired and had accumulated funds over 100 years from a variety of sources. Disability Services Queensland advertised widely for grant applications in April 2002, and distributed the fund to 24 services that could demonstrate that their innovative projects assisted people with a vision impairment. As no further funds are available for distribution the *Legacy Trust Fund Act 2001* is no longer required.
4. Cabinet approved that the Guide, Hearing and Assistance Dogs Bill 2008 be introduced into the Legislative Assembly.
5. *Attachments*
* [Guide, Hearing and Assistance Dogs Bill 2008](attachments/Guide%20Hearing%20and%20Assistance%20Dogs%20Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](attachments/Guide%20Hearing%20and%20Assistance%20Dogs%20Bill%20EXPNOTES.pdf)