1. The primary function of the Mental Health Court (the Court) is to determine soundness of mind and fitness for trial of persons referred to the Court whom are facing criminal proceedings. This ensures mentally ill and intellectually disabled offenders are moved from the criminal justice system into the mental health system.
2. The Court determines the mental condition of persons charged with indictable offences, decides on appeals against decisions made by the Mental Health Review Tribunal and considers other matters relating to the detention of patients and applications for changing forensic orders. It also has special powers of inquiry into the lawfulness of the detention of persons in Authorised Mental Health Services.
3. Section 390(2) of the *Mental Health Act 2000* requires that, in recommending a psychiatrist for appointment as an assisting psychiatrist, the Minister must be satisfied the psychiatrist has qualifications and experience necessary to perform an assisting psychiatrist’s functions.
4. Following a public expression of interest, applications were reviewed by a selection panel.
5. Cabinet endorsed that Dr Mee Ling Khoo, Dr Josephine Sundin, Dr Scott Harden and Dr Jill Reddan be recommended to Governor in Council for appointment as assisting psychiatrists to the Mental Health Court for a term of three years commencing on 1 March 2014.
6. *Attachments*
* Nil*.*