

EXCLUSIVE

NATIONAL QUEENSLAND PUBLIC SERVICE

Deputy public trustee leaves amid CEO's misconduct probe

By [Lydia Lynch](#)

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Three senior staff at Queensland's Public Trustee have resigned, retired or left in the wake of their chief executive's suspension.

Public Trustee Peter Carne was suspended on June 13, after "serious allegations" were made against him.



Peter Carne, pictured in 2014 while speaking at former premier Wayne Goss's memorial service. MICHELLE SMITH

Mr Carne oversaw the trustee's 600 staff, who manage finances of incapacitated people and estates of deceased people across Queensland.

Attorney-General Yvette D'Ath would not say why Mr Carne had been removed, pending a show-cause notice "as a consequence of serious allegations which could amount to misbehaviour".

When asked about the nature of the allegations, a spokeswoman for the Attorney-General said: "it is inappropriate to comment because it is a show cause and no decision has been made at this point".

The day after Ms D'Ath announced Mr Carne's suspension, deputy public trustee Mark Crofton announced he would leave his role next month.

Mr Crofton, who is also the official solicitor, remains on leave and will "finish his role on July 19".

A public trustee spokeswoman would not discuss the reasons for Mr Crofton's departure but stressed they were "unaware of anyone else being investigated in relation to the suspension of Peter Carne".

Mr Crofton was acting Public Trustee of Queensland from 2014-16.

Human resources senior director Erica Gallagher will also be leaving the Public Trustee in a matter of weeks, after tendering her resignation.

"The senior director of human resource services has been instrumental in building our professional and capable workforce," the spokeswoman said.

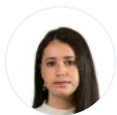
"Her decision to accept a new executive role is unrelated to the suspension of Peter Carne."

Capability and performance director Rob Moran tendered his resignation in the weeks after Mr Carne's suspension.

The spokeswoman said Mr Moran "has been planning his retirement for some time now" and that his decision to leave was not related to Mr Carne's suspension.

She would not say if any other staff were leaving, citing privacy considerations.

"Any retirements or movement to other roles are not related to the suspension of Peter Carne."



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