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# Administrative Appeals Tribunal Annual Report 2007—08

# **GLOSSARY**

AASB Australian Accounting Standards Board

AAT Administrative Appeals Tribunal

ACSI 33 Australian Communications Security Instructions 33 which form part

of the Australian Government Protective Security Manual.

ADR Alternative dispute resolution

Affirm The AAT may affirm a decision under review. This means that the

original decision still stands.

Applicant This is the person, organisation, department or agency that has

lodged an application with the AAT.

Application for extension of time

An application for review of a decision must be lodged with the AAT within a certain time limit. However, an application may be made to

the AAT to extend the time for lodging an application.

Case appraisal Case appraisal is an ADR process conducted by an AAT member or

other person, chosen on the basis of their knowledge of the subject matter, who assists the parties to resolve the dispute by providing a non-binding opinion on the facts in dispute and likely outcomes.

COAT Council of Australasian Tribunals

**Conciliation** Conciliation is an ADR process in which an AAT member or

Conference Registrar assists the parties to identify the issues in dispute and endeavour to reach an agreement. The conciliator has no determinative role but may advise on or determine the conciliation process, make suggestions on terms of settlement and actively

encourage the parties to reach an agreement.

**Conference** A conference is a meeting conducted by an AAT member or

Conference Registrar with the parties and/or their representatives. Conferences provide an opportunity to discuss and define the issues in dispute, identify further evidence that may be gathered, explore whether the matter can be settled and discuss the future conduct of

the matter.

Confidentiality order The AAT may make an order directing that a hearing or part of a

hearing be held in private. The AAT may also give directions prohibiting or restricting the publication of the names of a party or witnesses, evidence given before the AAT or matters contained in

documents lodged with the AAT.

CSS Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme

**Directions hearings** Directions hearings are conducted by AAT members and may be

held to deal with procedural matters such as the exchange of statements or documents or to clarify issues relating to the conduct of a hearing. They may also be held to progress a matter in which

there has been delay by a party.

Dismissal of application

In certain circumstances, the AAT may dismiss an application without proceeding to review the decision. An application may be dismissed, for example, at the request of the parties, if the applicant fails to appear at an ADR process, directions hearing or hearing, or if the AAT is satisfied that the application is frivolous or vexatious.

FMO Finance Minister's Order

GST Goods and Services Tax

Hearing A hearing is conducted by one, two or three AAT members. It is the

opportunity for the parties to present to the AAT evidence and submissions in relation to the decision under review. Parties may call

witnesses to give evidence.

**HSR** Health and Safety Representative

IASAJ International Association of Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions

Interlocutory application

This is any application made by a party that relates to an application for review of a decision, including an application for an extension of time to lodge an application, an application to stay the operation of the decision under review or an application for a confidentiality order.

Mediation Mediation is an ADR process in which an AAT member or

Conference Registrar assists the parties to identify the issues in dispute, develop options, consider alternatives and endeavour to reach an agreement. The mediator has no advisory or determinative role in relation to the content of the dispute but may advise on or

determine the mediation process.

MRT Migration Review Tribunal

NAATI National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters

**Neutral evaluation**Neutral evaluation is an ADR process in which an AAT member or

other person, chosen on the basis of their knowledge of the subject matter, assists the parties to resolve the dispute by evaluating the facts and law at issue in the dispute and providing a non-binding

opinion on the likely outcomes.

OPA Official Public Account

Outreach This is an AAT program that provides self-represented parties with

information about AAT practices and procedures and other

assistance in relation to the review process.

Party Parties are the participants in the proceedings before the AAT. Parties

include the person who makes the application to the AAT, the decision-maker or other respondent to the application and any other

person joined to the proceedings.

Party joined Where a person, department or agency has applied to the AAT for

review of a decision, any other person, department or agency whose interests are affected by the decision may apply to be made a party to the proceeding, and the AAT may grant that application. This

person, department, or agency is a party joined.

Portfolio Budget Statements Statements prepared to explain the Budget appropriations for agencies within a portfolio in terms of outcomes and outputs.

PSS Public Sector Superannuation Scheme

PSSap Public Sector Superannuation accumulation plan

RRT Refugee Review Tribunal

Remit The AAT may set aside a decision and send it back (remit it) to the

original decision-maker to be reconsidered in accordance with any

directions or recommendations of the AAT.

**Respondent** This is the party who responds to or answers an application. This is

usually the department, agency or organisation that made the

original decision.

Section 37 These are the statement and documents that a decision-maker must prepare and provide to the AAT and the other party under section 37

prepare and provide to the AAT and the other party under section 37 of *Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975*: known generally as the 'T Documents'. They include the reasons for the decision under

review and all other relevant documents.

Set aside The AAT may set aside a decision under review. The effect is that the

AAT disagrees with the original decision and may make a new decision or remit the matter to the original decision-maker.

SSAT Social Security Appeals Tribunal

Stay order This is an order of the AAT to suspend the operation or

implementation of the decision under review until the matter is

determined or resolved.

Summons This is a notice issued by the AAT calling a person to appear before it

or to produce documents to it.

T Documents See 'Section 37 Documents'.

TRACS The AAT's electronic case management system.

Vary The AAT may vary a decision under review. This means that the AAT

changes or alters the original decision.

VRB Veterans' Review Board

# CONTACTING THE TRIBUNAL

The Tribunal can be contacted in person, by telephone or in writing (by letter or fax). Office hours are 8.30 am to 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday.

If you are writing to the Tribunal, the letter should be addressed to:

The District Registrar AAT GPO Box 9955 Your capital city

# REGISTRY LOCATIONS AND CONTACT NUMBERS

### **New South Wales**

Level 7 City Centre Tower 55 Market Street SYDNEY NSW 2000 Telephone: (02) 9391 2400 Facsimile: (02) 9283 4881

### Victoria

Level 16 Southgate, HWT Tower 40 City Road SOUTHBANK VIC 3006 Telephone: (03) 9282 8444 Facsimile: (03) 9282 8480

### Queensland

Level 4
Harry Gibbs Commonwealth
Law Courts Building
Cnr North Quay and Tank Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000
Telephone: (07) 3361 3000
Facsimile: (07) 3361 3001

### South Australia

11th Floor Chesser House 91 Grenfell Street ADELAIDE SA 5000 Telephone: (08) 8201 0600 Facsimile: (08) 8201 0610

### Western Australia

Level 5 111 St Georges Terrace PERTH WA 6000 Telephone: (08) 9327 7200 Facsimile: (08) 9327 7299

### Tasmania

Ground Floor
Edward Braddon Commonwealth
Law Courts Building
39–41 Davey Street
HOBART TAS 7000
Telephone: (03) 6232 1712
Facsimile: (03) 6232 1701

### Australian Capital Territory

4th Floor Canberra House 40 Marcus Clarke Street CANBERRA ACT 2601 Telephone: (02) 6243 4611 Facsimile: (02) 6243 4600

### Northern Territory

Northern Territory residents should direct any enquiries to the Queensland Registry.

### NATIONAL TELEPHONE NUMBER

The Tribunal provides a national telephone number — 1300 366 700. You can use it to call the Tribunal's office, in the capital city of the state in which you live, for the cost of a local call. Those calling from the Northern Territory and the Northern Rivers area of New South Wales will be connected with Brisbane.

# SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH A HEARING OR SPEECH IMPAIRMENT

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, the AAT has services you can use. TTY users can phone 133 677 then ask for 1300 366 700. Speak and Listen (speech-to-speech relay) users can phone 1300 555 727 then ask for 1300 366 700. Internet relay users can connect to the National Relay Service (see www.relayservice.com.au for details) and then ask for 1300 366 700.

## TRIBUNAL WEBSITE

Further information about the Tribunal, including details about contacting the Tribunal, is available from the Tribunal's website: www.aat.gov.au.

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