



Administrative  
Appeals  
Tribunal

ANNUAL REPORT

2007—08

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ISSN 1035-3161

Editorial services provided by Puddingburn Publishing Services Pty Ltd  
Designed by ZOO  
Printed by Blue Star Print



Administrative Appeals Tribunal


PRESIDENT'S CHAMBERS  
The Hon Justice Garry Downes AM

19 September 2008

The Hon Robert McClelland MP  
Attorney-General  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

My dear Attorney - General,

In accordance with section 24R of the *Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975*, I present to you the Annual Report of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal covering the Tribunal's operations for the year ended 30 June 2008.

yours faithfully,  


GARRY DOWNES

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## READER'S GUIDE

The purpose of this Annual Report is to inform the Attorney-General, the Parliament, Tribunal users and the general public about the performance of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal during the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008.

The Tribunal's Organisational Plan 2007–08 sets out key result areas, goals and strategies that are linked to the outcome specified for the Tribunal in the Portfolio Budget Statements. That outcome is:

*Improve the quality of administrative decision-making through the provision of a review mechanism that is fair, just, economical, informal and quick.*

This report provides information on the Tribunal's performance in relation to this outcome and each of the key result areas identified in the Organisational Plan.

### CHAPTER 1: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Chapter 1 comprises the President's overview and the Registrar's report. These two reports highlight significant events, issues and developments during the reporting year. Chapter 1 also includes the Tribunal's Organisational Plan for 2007–08 and a statement of achievements against the plan.

### CHAPTER 2: OVERVIEW OF THE TRIBUNAL

Chapter 2 sets out basic information about the Tribunal's role, functions and powers. It includes information about the Tribunal's members and staff, its organisational structure, case management process and the accessibility of the Tribunal.

### CHAPTER 3: WORKLOAD AND PERFORMANCE

Chapter 3 provides information and commentary on the Tribunal's workload and performance. It sets out summary statistical information on applications lodged and finalised in the reporting year and the number of applications on hand at 30 June 2008. It contains information on the Tribunal's performance in relation to the targets specified in the Portfolio Budget Statements and its performance against internal time standards. It also sets out information on complaints about the Tribunal and external scrutiny of the Tribunal's decisions and operations.

### CHAPTER 4: OUR USERS AND OUR PARTNERS

Chapter 4 contains information on the achievement of the goals set out in the Tribunal's Organisational Plan in relation to its users and partners. It includes information on the initiatives undertaken during the reporting year to improve the Tribunal's practices and procedures and to better meet the needs of users. This chapter also provides information on the Tribunal's relationships with other organisations and the various activities undertaken during 2007–08 to increase awareness and understanding of the Tribunal and its role.

## CHAPTER 5: OUR PEOPLE AND OUR ORGANISATION

Chapter 5 provides information on the achievement of the goals set out in the Tribunal's Organisational Plan in relation to its people and the organisation. It also contains a range of other information relating to human resource management within the Tribunal and the administration of the Tribunal generally.

The audited financial statements of the Tribunal are set out after Chapter 5, commencing at page 55. There are also ten appendixes which include more detailed information on aspects of the Tribunal and its operations. They include profiles of the Tribunal's members, more detailed statistical information on the Tribunal's workload and performance and summaries of decisions of interest. A complete list of appendixes is provided in the table of contents

The following tools may assist in finding information in this report — the table of contents at page iv, a compliance index at page 162 and an alphabetical index at page 165.

An electronic version of this Annual Report is available from the Tribunal's website at [www.aat.gov.au/CorporatePublications/AnnualReport.htm](http://www.aat.gov.au/CorporatePublications/AnnualReport.htm). Further information about the Tribunal is available from the Tribunal's homepage, at [www.aat.gov.au](http://www.aat.gov.au)

Enquiries, comments or requests for further information about this Annual Report may be addressed to:

Registrar  
Principal Registry  
Administrative Appeals Tribunal  
GPO Box 9955  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Telephone: (02) 9391 2491  
Fax: (02) 9391 2578  
Email: [annrep@aat.gov.au](mailto:annrep@aat.gov.au)