



Administrative Appeals Tribunal

2004–2005  
Annual Report 2004–2005



Administrative Appeals Tribunal  
2004-2005  
Annual Report 2004 - 2005

© Commonwealth of Australia 2005

This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced by any process without prior written permission from the Australian Government, available from the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts. Requests and enquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be addressed to the Commonwealth Copyright Administration, Intellectual Property Branch, Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, GPO Box 2154, Canberra ACT 2601, or posted at [www.dcita.gov.au/cca](http://www.dcita.gov.au/cca).

ISSN 1035-3161

Editorial services provided by Libraries Alive!

Designed by Spectrum Graphics <[sg.com.au](http://sg.com.au)>

Printed by Canprint



Administrative Appeals Tribunal

PRESIDENT'S CHAMBERS  
The Hon Justice Garry Downes AM

17 October 2005

The Hon Philip Ruddock 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 2005.

yours faithfully  


GARRY DOWNES

# Contents

<b>Reader's guide</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>Chapter 1: The year in review</b>	<b>1</b>
President's overview	2
Registrar's report	4
Organisational Plan and Statement of Achievements	6
<b>Chapter 2: Overview of the Tribunal</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Chapter 3: Workload and performance</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Chapter 4: Our users and partners</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Chapter 5: Our people and our organisation</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Financial Statements</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>101</b>
Appendix 1: Members of the Tribunal	102
Appendix 2: Staff of the Tribunal	124
Appendix 3: Statistics for the year ending 30 June 2005	126
Appendix 4: Tribunal application fees	139
Appendix 5: Changes to jurisdiction	140
Appendix 6: Decisions of interest	143
Appendix 7: Freedom of information	155
Appendix 8: Commonwealth Disability Strategy—the Tribunal's performance in employer role	157
Appendix 9: Consultancies	159
<b>Endmatter</b>	<b>161</b>
Glossary	162
Contacting the Tribunal	165
<b>Indexes</b>	<b>167</b>
Compliance Index	168
Alphabetical Index	170

# 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 (the AAT) during the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005.

The Tribunal's Organisational Plan 2004–05, which appears at the end of Chapter 1, sets out key result areas, goals and strategies which are linked to the outcome specified in the Tribunal's Portfolio Agency Budget Statements. That outcome is:

*to provide aggrieved persons and agencies with timely, fair and independent merits review of administrative decisions over which the Tribunal has jurisdiction.*

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

**Chapter 1: The year in review**—comprises the President's overview and Registrar's report. These two reports highlight significant issues relating to the Tribunal's performance during the reporting year, which are discussed in more detail throughout the report.

**Chapter 2: Overview of the Tribunal**—provides basic information about the Tribunal, including its role, functions and powers, organisational structure, people, dispute resolution process and accessibility.

**Chapter 3: Workload and performance**—provides information and commentary on the Tribunal's workload and performance results. This chapter includes information on financial performance, performance against internal time standards, complaints and external scrutiny.

**Chapter 4: Our users and our partners**—contains information on initiatives to improve the Tribunal's practices and procedures, access to the Tribunal and the Tribunal's liaison with its users. It also describes the Tribunal's contact and relationships

with other external bodies in relation to issues concerning the Tribunal and its operations.

**Chapter 5: Our people and our organisation**—provides information on 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 57. The appendices include profiles of the Tribunal's members, more detailed statistical information on the Tribunal's workload, changes to the Tribunal's jurisdiction, Tribunal decisions of interest, freedom of information data, a summary of the Tribunal's performance against the Commonwealth Disability Strategy and details of consultancies used by the Tribunal during 2004–05. A complete list of appendices 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, glossary at page 162, the compliance index at page 168 and the alphabetical index at page 170.

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)

Administrative Appeals Tribunal

2004-2005  
Annual Report 2004 - 2005