



Administrative Appeals Tribunal

ANNUAL REPORT
2005 – 2006

Welcome to those who cannot afford legal representation to argue their case where it is believed an injustice has occurred. May it always be available.

"I was very pleased with the way AAT staff and the member who

conference

The applicant has appealed a decision rejecting his claim for compensation.

HEARING

The decision under review is set aside.

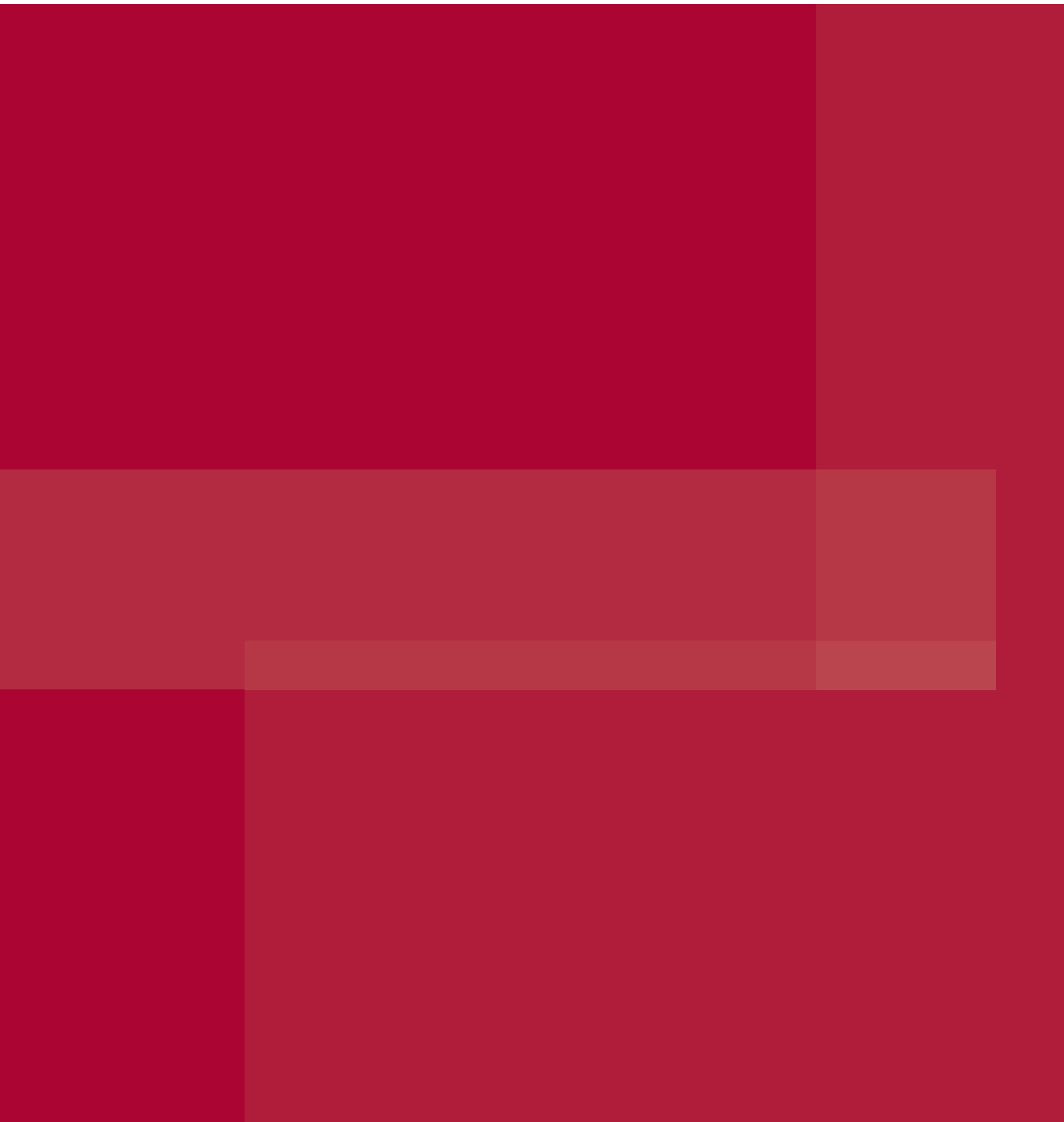
was very impressed with the professionalism and thorough detail

applications are referred to the relevant Department.

... an AAT staff member came and re-emphasised how it would be fair and I would be listened to.

The cover of this year's annual report features text from two sources. Firstly, there are a number of quotes from individual applicants who responded to the Tribunal's user survey that was conducted in 2005. Secondly, there are a number of words and phrases which relate to the Tribunal's role and its operations. The text reflects the day-to-day workings of the Tribunal and the experiences of Tribunal users in the context of the Tribunal's legislatively stated obligation to provide a mechanism of review that is fair, just, economical, informal and quick.

Administrative Appeals Tribunal
Annual Report 2005–2006



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Administrative Appeals Tribunal

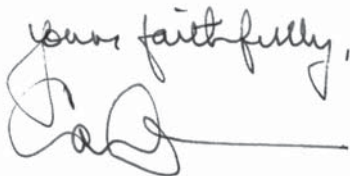
PRESIDENT'S CHAMBERS
The Hon Justice Garry Downes AM

16 October 2006

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 2006.

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 2005 to 30 June 2006.

The Tribunal's Organisational Plan 2005–06 sets out key result areas, goals and strategies that are linked to the outcome specified in the Portfolio Budget Statement for the Tribunal. 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

This chapter 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. Chapter 1 also includes the Tribunal's Organisational Plan for 2005–06 and a statement of achievements against the plan.

CHAPTER 2: OVERVIEW OF THE TRIBUNAL

This chapter sets out basic information about the Tribunal's role, functions and powers, its members and staff, its organisational structure, case management process and accessibility.

CHAPTER 3: WORKLOAD AND PERFORMANCE

This chapter provides information and commentary on the Tribunal's workload and performance results. It includes information on financial performance, performance against internal time standards, complaints about the Tribunal and external scrutiny of the Tribunal's decisions and operations.

CHAPTER 4: OUR USERS AND OUR PARTNERS

This chapter contains information on initiatives that are designed 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 relationships with other organisations in relation to issues concerning the Tribunal and its operations.

CHAPTER 5: OUR PEOPLE AND OUR ORGANISATION

This chapter 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 more detailed information on aspects of the Tribunal's operations, including profiles of the Tribunal's members and decisions of interest. 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, a compliance index at page 166 and an alphabetical index at page 168.

An electronic version of this annual report is available from the Tribunal's website at www.aat.gov.au/corporatepublications/annualreport.htm. Further information about the Tribunal is available from the Tribunal's homepage, at www.aat.gov.au.

Enquiries, comments or requests for further information about this annual report may be addressed to:

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