



Administrative  
Appeals  
Tribunal

ANNUAL REPORT  
2008-09



## CONTACTING THE TRIBUNAL

### Adelaide Registry

11th Floor Chesser House  
91 Grenfell St  
ADELAIDE SA 5000  
Tel 08 8201 0600  
Fax 08 8201 0610  
Email [adelaide.registry@aat.gov.au](mailto:adelaide.registry@aat.gov.au)

### Brisbane Registry

Level 4 Harry Gibbs Building  
Commonwealth Law Courts  
119 North Quay  
BRISBANE QLD 4000  
Tel 07 3361 3000  
Fax 07 3361 3001  
Email [brisbane.registry@aat.gov.au](mailto:brisbane.registry@aat.gov.au)

### Canberra Registry

4th Floor Canberra House  
40 Marcus Clarke St  
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2600  
Tel 02 6243 4611  
Fax 02 6243 4600  
Email [canberra.registry@aat.gov.au](mailto:canberra.registry@aat.gov.au)

### Hobart Registry

Edward Braddon Building  
Commonwealth Law Courts  
39-41 Davey St  
HOBART TAS 7000  
Tel 03 6232 1712  
Fax 03 6232 1701  
Email [hobart.registry@aat.gov.au](mailto:hobart.registry@aat.gov.au)

### Melbourne Registry

Level 16 HWT Tower  
40 City Rd  
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006  
Tel 03 9282 8444  
Fax 03 9282 8480  
Email [melbourne.registry@aat.gov.au](mailto:melbourne.registry@aat.gov.au)

### Perth Registry

Level 5 111 St Georges Tce  
PERTH WA 6000  
Tel 08 9327 7200  
Fax 08 9327 7299  
Email [perth.registry@aat.gov.au](mailto:perth.registry@aat.gov.au)

### Sydney Registry

Level 7 55 Market St  
SYDNEY NSW 2000  
Tel 02 9391 2400  
Fax 02 9283 4881  
Email [sydney.registry@aat.gov.au](mailto:sydney.registry@aat.gov.au)

### Toll free

If you live outside a metropolitan area, call toll free 1300 366 700. You will be charged for a local call only, and connected to your capital city, except for residents in northern NSW (postcodes 2460–2490) and the Northern Territory who will be connected to the Brisbane Registry.

### Non-English speakers

Call the Translating and Interpreter Service on 131 450 and ask them to call the Tribunal.

### If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment

Users who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment can call through the National Relay Service.

TTY users: call 133 677, then ask for 1300 366 700.

Internet relay users: connect to the National Relay Service ([www.relayservice.com.au](http://www.relayservice.com.au)), then ask for 1300 366 700.

Speak and Listen (speech-to-speech relay) users: call 1300 555 727, then ask for 1300 366 700.

Portable hearing loops systems are available, on request, for use at our office counters, and in conference and hearing rooms.

### Post

AAT  
GPO Box 9955  
Your capital city

### Website

[www.aat.gov.au](http://www.aat.gov.au)



Administrative  
Appeals  
Tribunal

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2008-09**



Administrative  
Appeals  
Tribunal


PRESIDENT'S CHAMBERS  
The Hon Justice Garry Downes AM

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

17 September 2009

*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 2009.

*yours faithfully,*  


GARRY DOWNES

#### This report

An electronic version of this annual report is on the Tribunal's website, [www.aat.gov.au/CorporatePublications/AnnualReport.htm](http://www.aat.gov.au/CorporatePublications/AnnualReport.htm). More information about the Tribunal is on the Tribunal's website, [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

Tel: 02 9391 2491  
Fax: 02 9391 2578  
Email: [principal.registry@aat.gov.au](mailto:principal.registry@aat.gov.au)

Photos: Unless otherwise stated, the series of photos used in this report show Tribunal members and staff in situations that self-represented parties may encounter during a review. Cover: Member Dr John Campbell, Senior Member Naida Isenberg, Stephen Shepherd, Neil Mackenzie, Catriona Hamlin. Page 12: Francis Pham, Sheryl Myers. Page 15: Kim Richardson, Mary Desses, Christopher Matthies, Jan Sadler. Page 16: Mark Dowsett. Page 26: Shanthi Sri Ganeshan, Member Stephen Frost. Page 36: Catriona Hamlin. Photographer: Leighton Hutchinson.

© Commonwealth of Australia 2009

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 Commonwealth. Requests and enquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be addressed to the Commonwealth Copyright Administration, Attorney-General's Department, National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600, or posted at [www.ag.gov.au/cca](http://www.ag.gov.au/cca)

ISSN 1035-3161

Editorial services provided by Puddingburn Publishing Services Pty Ltd

Designed by ZOO

Printed by Blue Star Print

Level 7 55 Market Street SYDNEY NSW 2000  
GPO Box 9955 SYDNEY NSW 2001 Australia  
DX 10200 Sydney Stock Exchange  
ABN: 90 680 970 626

Tel +61 2 9391 2442  
Fax +61 2 9391 2577

[www.aat.gov.au](http://www.aat.gov.au)

## CONTENTS

<b>Chapter 1: The year in review</b>	<b>1</b>
President's overview	2
Registrar's report	4
Organisational plan, and achievements for 2008-09	5
<b>Chapter 2: Overview of the Tribunal</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Chapter 3: Our performance</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Chapter 4: Our users and our partners</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Chapter 5: Our people and our organisation</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Financial statements</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Appendixes</b>	
Appendix 1: Members of the Tribunal	96
Appendix 2: Staff of the Tribunal	119
Appendix 3: Applications, outcomes, listings and appeals statistics	121
Appendix 4: Resourcing tables	134
Appendix 5: Tribunal application fees	136
Appendix 6: Changes to jurisdiction	138
Appendix 7: Decisions of interest	141
Appendix 8: Freedom of information	150
Appendix 9: Speeches, articles and other activities	152
Appendix 10: Consultancies and other reporting requirements	156
Appendix 11: Commonwealth Disability Strategy – Tribunal performance	158
<b>Glossary</b>	<b>159</b>
<b>Indexes</b>	
Compliance index	164
Alphabetical index	167