

The AAT is taking steps to resume some in-person hearings, at all AAT registries except for Melbourne.

The AAT has, to date, been able to minimise the impact on our services through the provision of online registry support and by hearing matters remotely.

However, we are mindful that there are some circumstances in which a remote hearing may not be practicable and where the matter may not be deferred. We will consider the listing of in-person hearings on a case by case basis in accordance with the AAT's practice directions. In appropriate matters, in-person hearings are expected to commence within the next few weeks. Parties will be contacted by the Tribunal as to hearing arrangements.

Whilst we will keep the matter under careful review, we expect that, for some time, most AAT hearings and all AAT conferences will continue to be conducted remotely by video conference or telephone. We are taking a staged approach to recommencing in-person hearings because a priority continues to be the health and wellbeing of our members, staff, visitors and the wider community.

Detailed information about how to contact the AAT and how to access services at this time is available on our <u>website</u>

The Hon Justice D G Thomas

President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal Judge of the Federal Court of Australia