

# Justice and Community Safety Directorate

## Tribunals

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## The ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT)

Tribunals are usually less formal than courts and resolve a broad range of disputes, such as arguments between consumers and businesses, or between landlords and tenants.

The ACAT provides a forum to determine a broad range of civil disputes, requests for review of administrative decisions and professional and occupational disciplinary matters. In 2009 it took over the work of a number of existing tribunals and boards including:

- Administrative Appeals Tribunal
- Discrimination Tribunal
- Guardianship and Management of Property Tribunal
- Health Professions Tribunal
- Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal
- Liquor Licensing Board
- Mental Health Tribunal
- Residential Tenancies Tribunal
- Small Claims Court



The ACAT is responsible for the resolution of unit titles disputes and all civil disputes involving amounts under \$10,000. It is also responsible for disciplinary proceedings relating to:

- builders
- electricians
- finance brokers
- health professionals
- legal practitioners
- motor vehicle dealers
- plumbers and other licensed construction occupations
- surveyors and architects
- tobacco sellers

The Tribunal has wide reaching powers conferred by the [ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2008](#) to resolve disputes in these jurisdictional areas. It encourages parties to resolve disputes by agreement in

conferences and mediations and holds hearings to make decisions when agreement is not possible or appropriate. Orders made by the ACAT can be enforced.

## **Contact**

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal  
ACT Health Building  
Level 4, 1 Moore Street  
Canberra, ACT

T: (02) 62071740

W: [www.acat.act.gov.au](http://www.acat.act.gov.au)

## **Legal Assistance - General**

A variety of firms and organisations can provide advice about proceedings before the [ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal](#). These include solicitors, community legal centres, Legal Aid ACT and the ACT Law Society.

The [Tenants Advice Service](#) can provide advice to tenants or occupants about residential tenancy and occupancy matters. Comprehensive information relating to access services is available through the Commonwealth Government [Access to Justice](#) website.

## **Legal Assistance - Administrative Review**

Guidelines under the [ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2008](#) define how legal assistance may be granted a review of an administrative decision. Legal assistance is granted on the discretion that the Attorney-General is satisfied in regard to hardship and reasonableness of the application.

The Guidelines provide the definition in relation to "hardship" and the consideration afforded to financial circumstances of the applicant. The Guidelines also outline other considerations undertaken that may relate to an application. Assistance may be declined by the Attorney-General, or special conditions may be imposed, in a number of circumstances. These are expanded on in the Guidelines.

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### **[Guidelines for the Provision of Legal Assistance](#)**

(Section 22T *ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2008*)

Written applications should be directed to:

Attorney-General  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
GPO Box 1020 Canberra ACT 2601

## Other tribunals

Apart from the ACAT, other tribunals and similar bodies that operate in the ACT are:

- [ACT Remuneration Tribunal](#) - administered by Chief Minister's Department
- [Sentence Administration Board](#) - administered by ACT Corrective Services

For information about Commonwealth tribunals operating in the ACT visit the Federal [Attorney-General's Department website](#).