



Administrative Appeals Tribunal

Acting Registrar's opening statement

Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

Additional estimates hearing

February 2022

Thank you, Chair.

The Committee will be aware the former President, The Hon Justice David Thomas, and former Registrar Sian Leathem have both resigned from the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

The Hon Justice Berna Collier, Judge of the Federal Court of Australia, is currently the AAT's acting President. She is ably assisted by the Division Heads, other Deputy Presidents and others in senior positions to ensure the core work of the Tribunal continues.

When the former Registrar left in January 2022, I became acting Registrar. I am assisted by a Senior Executive Group and will continue to work with our members and staff to deliver the services required by Tribunal users.

These temporary arrangements will be in place until a new President and a new Registrar are appointed.

As interim leaders in our respective areas, Justice Collier and I are mindful of the need to continue to look for ways to improve AAT services. We will consider what can be implemented, as appropriate, and will otherwise prepare to provide recommendations for the new President and Registrar.

Regardless, we will ensure the AAT continues to do its core work to finalise many thousands of applications through a high-quality merits review process that is accessible, fair, just, economical, informal and quick.

Thank you and I welcome questions from the Committee.