



**ADMINISTRATIVE  
APPEALS  
TRIBUNAL**

ABN 90 680 970 626

PRINCIPAL REGISTRY

1 December 2011

Ms Julie Dennett  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Legal & Constitutional Affairs  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Email: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Dennett

**Re: Access to Justice (Federal Jurisdiction) Amendment Bill 2011**

I refer to your letter of 28 November 2011 inviting the Tribunal to make a submission to the inquiry into the Access to Justice (Federal Jurisdiction) Amendment Bill 2011 (the Bill).

As you would know, the Tribunal does not make submissions about matters of government policy. The proposed amendments are however concerned with procedural matters. Accordingly, the Tribunal does consider that it is appropriate to comment.

The Tribunal supports the amendments to the *Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975* (AAT Act) set out in Schedule 5 to the Bill. As noted in the Explanatory Memorandum for the Bill, the repeal of section 29A of the AAT Act and expansion of the matters that might be dealt with in the regulations will give the Tribunal more flexibility with administering the payment of fees relating to Tribunal proceedings.

The imposition of a fee for unsuccessful Government respondents that is mentioned in paragraph 437 of the Explanatory Memorandum is a matter for the Government.

Thank you for the invitation to participate in this inquiry.

Yours sincerely

**Philip Kellow**  
**Registrar**