

Hot Topics in Commonwealth Compensation

10 May 2024 | Melbourne & Online



Law Council
OF AUSTRALIA

*Federal Dispute
Resolution Section*

Hot Topics in Commonwealth Compensation



Time	
8.30am	Registration <i>Online participants are asked to log-in between 08:30 and 08:45 to ensure that equipment and internet connections are working</i>
9.00am	Introduction and handover to the Chair, Mr Peter Britten-Jones, Deputy President and Division Head of General Division, Administrative Appeals Tribunal Speaker: Mr Peter Woulfe, Barrister and Chair, Commonwealth Compensation and Employment Law Committee
9.10am	<i>The Administrative Review Tribunal – A new approach to resolving compensation matters?</i> Speaker: Senior Member Damien O’Donovan, Administrative Appeals Tribunal
10.00am	Q&A
10.10am	Legislative changes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Edition 3.0 of the <i>Guide to the Assessment of the Degree of Permanent Impairment</i> Speaker: Ben Mason, Partner, Moray & Agnew Lawyers <i>Fair Work Legislation (Closing Loopholes) Act 2023 (Cth)</i> Speaker: Gabriella Giunta, Senior Associate, Slater and Gordon Lawyers <i>Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment (Period for Decision-making) Regulations 2023 (Cth)</i> Speaker: Angela Sdrinis, Angela Sdrinis Legal
11.00am	Q&A
11.10am	MORNING TEA
11.40am	Case law updates Speakers: Cassie Serpell, Barrister, Victorian Bar, and Ray Ternes, Barrister, Victorian Bar
12.30pm	Q&A
12.50pm	Closing remarks Speaker: Mr Peter Britten-Jones, Deputy President and Division Head of General Division, Administrative Appeals Tribunal
1.00pm	SEMINAR CONCLUDES

Hot Topics in Commonwealth Compensation



Mr Peter Britten-Jones

Deputy President, Division Head of the General Division, Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT)

Peter has almost 30 years' experience as a lawyer since graduating from Adelaide University with a Bachelor of Laws and of Economics together with a Master of Laws attained later. Peter started his legal career as an Associate in the Supreme Court of South Australia. He was a partner in a commercial law firm before being called to the independent bar where he practised mainly as a commercial barrister for 12 years. In 2016 he became a part time Senior Member at the AAT and then a full time Deputy President in 2018. In March 2019 he was appointed as head of the General Division of the AAT. He continues in that role.

He moved from Adelaide to Melbourne at the beginning of 2021 and is a Collingwood supporter.



Mr Peter Woulfe

Barrister and Chair, Commonwealth Compensation and Employment Law Committee

Peter Woulfe is a barrister with a civil practice in a range of practice areas, with a particular focus on government and administrative law. Peter is one of Australia's leading Commonwealth compensation barristers, having worked on various matters of importance to the application of the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (Cth).

Peter is the Chair of the Federal Dispute Resolution Section of the Law Council of Australia, within which he is also the Chair of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal Liaison Committee and the Commonwealth Compensation and Employment Law Committee. One of Peter's recent projects is chairing the Law Council of Australia's Federal Administrative Law Reform Working Group, working with the Commonwealth in relation to the abolition of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and its replacement with the Administrative Review Tribunal.

Hot Topics in Commonwealth Compensation



Mr Ben Mason

Partner, Moray & Agnew

Ben leads Moray & Agnew's Australian Government National Practice Group. He advises and represents various agencies in relation to public law, employment law and WHS matters, as well as a range of claims made under the Comcover program. Prior to Moray & Agnew, Ben was an Assistant Secretary in the Attorney-General's Department where he worked on legislative reform to the Comcare and Seacare schemes among others. Before that, he worked at Comcare on workers' compensation and asbestos-related disease claims and assisted in establishing Comcare's in-house litigation capability. Before Comcare, Ben represented injured employees, veterans and other members of the ADF in relation to their claims for compensation.

Ben is an Accredited Specialist in Government and Administrative Law, a current member of the ACT Law Society's Military Law Committee and a past member of the Federal Dispute Resolution Section of the Law Council of Australia, Commonwealth Compensation and Employment Law Committee.



Mr Ray Ternes

Barrister, Victorian Bar

Ray Ternes works as a barrister in Victoria and interstate and has practised in the area of Commonwealth workers' compensation for more than fifteen years. He also regularly appears in other personal injury matters, particularly institutional abuse cases. When he's not working he enjoys spending time with his two young daughters and watching the mighty Saints.

Hot Topics in Commonwealth Compensation



Senior Member Damien O'Donovan

Administrative Appeals Tribunal

Senior Member Damien O'Donovan was appointed to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal in 2019 after more than 20 years at the Australian Government Solicitor.

He is currently the Practice Leader for Workers Compensation and is the Canberra Registry's Executive Member.

SM O'Donovan is currently involved in a workers compensation pilot program in the Canberra Registry which is seeking to identify procedural changes that can be made to the running of workers compensation matters which will improve the identification of issues in proceedings and facilitate faster resolution times.



Gabriella Giunta

Senior Associate, Slater and Gordon Lawyers

Gabriella is a Senior Associate and leads Slater and Gordon's national Comcare practice based in Sydney, having practiced in the jurisdiction since 2016. Gabriella advocates for injured workers under the Comcare and Seafarer schemes and assists in ensuring access to their rights and entitlements.

Gabriella has extensive experience in matters before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and practices in appeal matters in the Federal Court of Australia. Gabriella's goal is to ensure injured workers get a fair and just outcome so they can focus on their recovery and rehabilitation.

Hot Topics in Commonwealth Compensation



Angela Sdrinis

Angela Sdrinis Legal

Angela graduated with an Arts/Law degree in 1982 and commenced practice handling workers compensation claims for injured workers. Between 1985 and 1986, Angela worked as an Industrial and Legal Officer for the Federated Fire Fighter's Union. In 1986, Angela returned to personal injuries and has been a personal injuries Law Institute Accredited specialist since 1993.

Angela is a member of Federal Dispute Resolution Section of the Law Council of Australia's Commonwealth Compensation and Employment Law Committee.



Cassie Serpell

Green List Barristers

Cassie has extensive experience in Industrial Relations, Employment Law, Sexual Harassment, Discrimination and Personal Injuries. She frequently appears in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, the Federal Court and Federal Magistrates' Court, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal and the State courts.

Cassie regularly presents papers and delivers seminars in Advocacy, Industrial Relations, Employment Law, Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Law to practitioners and students alike at the Leo Cussen Institute and elsewhere.

Cassie is a past editor of the Discrimination chapter of the *Lawyers Practice Manual* published by Thomson Reuters.

Cassie joined Maurice Blackburn in 1994 and practiced in the areas of Medical Negligence, Personal Injuries and Freedom of Information. In 1996 Cassie left to take up the role of Trainee Advocate for the Australian Council of Trade Unions. She accepted the position of Advocate / Industrial Officer and Victoria Branch Solicitor with the Media Entertainment & Arts Alliance the following year. In 1999 Cassie held the position of Associate to Justice Shane Marshall of the Federal Court of Australia and remained in that role until she commenced reading at the Bar in March 2000.