ATTORNEY-GENERAL

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS TRIBUNAL – SWIFT JUSTICE FOR TERRITORIANS

27 August 2013

Attorney-General John Elferink has ordered a Report into the creation of a centralised Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

“The Report will provide advice on how to best implement a tribunal that is independent, efficient, expert, accessible, flexible and able to adapt to issues which may arise in the future,” Mr Elferink said.

“The Report will identify duplications and inefficiencies among the many bodies of appeals and state which of these would be better off under a centralised Administrative Appeals Tribunal model.

“This will find ways to reduce red tape and create a user-friendly appeals process.

“Currently, there are more than 35 commissioners, tribunals, committees and boards which have the power to hear appeals and review, uphold or overturn original decisions.

“A 2004 Report also identified 122 pieces of legislation where an appeals process was allowed, making it well past time to explore legislation that would best operate under a centralised appeals system.

“An Administrative Appeals Tribunal could have the ability to make decisions based on information before them, as well as information that has come to light since the original decision.

“The Report will take into account two previous reports recommending the establishment of a separate administrative review outside of the courts and ministerial process, while acknowledging that much of the information contained in these reports is outdated.

“The former Labor Government sat on their hands with the 2004 report and did very little with the information.

“This is about creating a fair, flexible and efficient appeals process for a stronger justice system in the Northern Territory.

“Everybody is entitled to a fair justice process and this includes the right to a balanced appeals process,” Mr Elferink said.

Stakeholders will be extended an invitation to contribute to the Report during the consultation phase.

Media Contact:
Danielle Lede 0404 515 414

www.nt.gov.au
GPO Box 3146, Darwin NT 0801