



ATTORNEY-GENERAL
THE HON PHILIP RUDDOCK MP

06/4952 MC07/14338

25 JUL 2007

Mr Russell Mathews
254 Hawken Drive
ST LUCIA QLD 4067

Dear Mr Mathews

I refer to your email of 21 June 2007 to the Hon Justice Garry Downes AM, President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, to which you also copied me. You indicated that you wish to complain about alleged disability discrimination and harassment by a Deputy Registrar of the Tribunal.

The Australian Government considers that all people with disability have the right to participate as fully as possible in community life, with dignity and comfort.

The Disability Discrimination Act provides that it is unlawful for a person or organisation to discriminate against a person on the basis of disability in a range of areas, including in relation to the administration of Commonwealth Government programs and Commonwealth laws. It also prohibits harassment on the basis of disability.

If you believe you have been discriminated against or harassed on the basis of a disability, you may consider lodging a complaint with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC). HREOC is the independent national statutory body responsible for administering the Disability Discrimination Act, and is responsible for inquiring into, and seeking to resolve, complaints of unlawful discrimination under that Act.

I note that you also copied your email correspondence to the HREOC complaints section, and therefore expect that HREOC would respond to you in due course. Further information on HREOC's complaint handling process is available online at http://www.hreoc.gov.au/complaints_information/lodge/index.html.

As Attorney-General, it is inappropriate for me to offer legal advice or to comment on individual complaints lodged with HREOC. However, you may wish to seek independent legal advice about the options available to you.

Yours sincerely

Philip Ruddock