



**ATTORNEY-GENERAL
HON ROBERT McCLELLAND MP**

MEDIA RELEASE

25 June 2009

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE
ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS TRIBUNAL**

Attorney-General, Robert McClelland, today announced seven appointments to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT).

“It is with great pleasure that I appoint Professor Robin Creyke, Robin Handley and Jill Toohey as new AAT members,” Mr McClelland said.

“The new AAT members come from diverse backgrounds including Professor Creyke from academia, Mr Handley from the legal profession and Ms Toohey from the Western Australian State Administrative Tribunal.

Mr McClelland also announced the re-appointment of current Deputy President Ray Groom, Senior Members Narelle Bell, Bruce Pascoe and Member Simon Webb.

“These positions were filled following the transparent appointment process introduced by the Rudd Government last year,” Mr McClelland said.

The Government sought expressions of interest and nominations through the national media and appointed a high level panel to assess and recommend suitable candidates.

“This process gives the public confidence that these appointments have been made on merit.”

“I thank outgoing members of the AAT for their significant contribution to ensuring good governance in Australia.”

Mr Handley, Ms Bell and Ms Toohey will be based in Sydney, Professor Creyke and Mr Webb in Canberra, Mr Pascoe in Melbourne and Mr Groom in Hobart.

Short biographies of the appointees are attached.

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Appointees to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal

Mr Robin Handley

Mr Handley holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Warwick and a Master of Laws from the Australian National University. He has previously been a Deputy President and Senior Member of the AAT, Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Wollongong and a member of the Social Security Appeals Tribunal.

Mr Ray Groom

Mr Groom holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Melbourne. He has been a Deputy President of the AAT since 2004 and is a former Premier and Attorney-General for Tasmania and an accredited mediator and arbitrator.

Professor Robin Creyke

Professor Creyke holds a Master of Laws from the Australian National University, a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Western Australia and a Graduate Diploma in small group learning and teaching from the University of Western Sydney. She has been a Professor of Law at the Australian National University since 2002 and the Alumni Chair of Administrative Law since 2003. She has also held the position of Integrity Adviser to the Australian Taxation Office.

Mr Bruce Pascoe

Mr Bruce Pascoe was appointed as a Member of the AAT in 1991 and Senior Member in 1995. He has a background as a general chartered accountant, arbitrator and mediator and is a taxation specialist.

Ms Narelle Bell

Ms Bell holds a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws from Macquarie University. She was appointed to the AAT as a Member in 2001 and a Senior Member in 2004. She has also held appointments on the Social Security Appeals Tribunal and the NSW Administrative Decisions Tribunal.

Ms Jill Toohey

Ms Toohey holds a Bachelor of Jurisprudence and Bachelor of Laws from the University of Western Australia. She has been a Senior Member of the WA State Administrative Tribunal since 2005. She has served on the Refugee Review Tribunal and was the Commissioner of the WA Legal Aid Commission. She is also an accredited mediator.

Mr Simon Webb

Mr Webb was appointed to the AAT as a Member in 2001. He previously held positions at the Office of Film and Literature Classification and the Arts Council of Australia. He is an accredited mediator.