

Both tribunals are required by their empowering legislation to provide a mechanism of review that is 'fair, just, economical, informal and quick'. The people who seek review will often not be in a position to effectively present their side of the matter and it is crucial that the tribunals' method of operations are designed with their particular clientele in mind.

While noting that there is a fundamental difference between the two Tribunals, with the IRT hearing the final review on the merits, the following list, although not exhaustive, notes some of the common and different procedures:

- . a statutory requirement that each tribunal is not bound by technicalities, legal forms or rules of evidence; and
- . each tribunal may actively seek information and evidence to enable it to carry out its review.

Features which differ between the IRT and the SSAT include:

- . in the IRT there is a discretion to make the most favourable decision to an applicant, on the papers available to the Tribunal, without proceeding to an oral hearing;
- . in the IRT it is common to use preliminary meetings prior to a hearing; and
- . the IRT may be constituted by a single member whereas the SSAT may only be constituted by fewer than 3 members when the National Convener is satisfied that special circumstances exist that warrant such a course.

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P E R S O N A L I A

Administrative Review Council

Justice Alan Boulton of the Industrial Relations Commission, who was appointed to the Council on 13 March 1989, resigned in May 1990.

Administrative Appeals Tribunal

Ms Deirdre O'Connor, who was Chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal from 1986, has been appointed a Judge of the Federal Court and President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal from 25 June 1990. Ms O'Connor has also been appointed President of the Security Appeals Tribunal for 5 years.

Before her appointment to the Broadcasting Tribunal Ms O'Connor had been a Law Reform Commissioner in New South Wales and a Senior Lecturer in Law at Macquarie University. She was admitted as a barrister in New South Wales in 1980.

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