

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Effective date: 22 June 2021

Replaces: Message from the President, 21 June 2021 - Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The Tribunal is monitoring the Commonwealth and State Governments' announcements and health advice relating to Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Mask and face coverings

In response to the latest COVID-19 health advice, face masks are now compulsory in Sydney CBD, Campbelltown, Liverpool, Penrith, Parramatta and Wollongong hearing rooms.

For all in-person hearings in these locations, everyone in a hearing room must wear a mask, unless:

- a. The person concerned is an active participant in the proceedings namely the Members, an unrepresented party, a legal representative who is responsible for presenting the case or a witness giving evidence
- b. one of the exemptions stated in the Public Health Order applies; or
- c. at the discretion of the presiding Member.

Anyone attending NCAT's Registries for counter service in these locations is also encouraged to wear a mask.

Hearings

The Tribunal will begin listing more face to face substantive hearings in the Consumer and Commercial Division, Administrative and Equal Opportunity Division, Occupational Division and the Appeal Panel.

New listings for in-person hearings can now be conducted without prior approval of the President (except for the Guardianship Division). The manner of appearance for matters already listed will not change.

Parties are reminded to check their listing notices as to the manner of appearance for hearings which will be either in-person, by telephone or video conference, or a hybrid of these modes of appearance.

Administrative and Equal Opportunity Division and Occupational Division

All directions hearings will be held by telephone or video conference. Hearings, case conferences and mediations will be conducted in a manner as directed by the Member.

Consumer and Commercial Division

Longer substantive hearings will be conducted in-person or as directed by the Member. Everything else will continue to be held by telephone or video conference. This arrangement will transition to more in-person listings over time.

Guardianship Division

Due to the vulnerability of its parties and the smaller size of its hearing rooms, the Guardianship Division will continue for the time being to conduct all hearings by telephone or video conference, unless the President gives prior approval for an in-person hearing.

Appeal Panel

All callovers will continue to be held by telephone or video conference. Hearings will be conducted as directed by the Member.

Attending in person

Please do not attend an NCAT Registry or an in-person Tribunal hearing:

- If you have had close contact with **someone diagnosed with or suspected or confirmed as having Coronavirus (COVID-19)** in the last 14 days
- If you are feeling unwell and experiencing any of the following symptoms - fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath

Registrars/Sheriff officers may deny entry or request any person to leave a building.

NSW Health advise that people should **stay at home if they are feeling unwell.**

For the latest updates from NSW Health visit their [website](#).

The Hon Justice Lea Armstrong
President

22 June 2021