



# 2024 / 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

## Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal



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The Honourable Marie-Clare Boothby  
Attorney-General  
Parliament House  
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Attorney-General

**NTCAT ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025**

In accordance with section 151 of the *Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2014*, I submit for your attention the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal's annual report for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Yours faithfully



**Mark O'Reilly**  
President  
Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal  
17 September 2025

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# INTRODUCTION

1. Section 151 of the *Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2014* ('NTCAT Act'), provides that:

## **151 Annual report**

- (1) The President must prepare and give to the Minister a report on the management and operation of the Tribunal during each financial year.
- (2) The report must contain information about:
  - (a) the number, nature and outcome of matters that have come before the Tribunal; and
  - (b) the number and nature of matters before the Tribunal that are incomplete as at the end of the financial year; and
  - (c) any trends or special problems that may have emerged; and
  - (d) in relation to the matters that have come before the Tribunal – the level of compliance by decision makers with requirements to:
    - (i) notify persons of reviewable decisions and their rights to seek review; and
    - (ii) provide written reasons for reviewable decisions when requested to do so; and
  - (e) forecasts of the workload of the Tribunal in the next financial year; and
  - (f) any proposals for improving the management and operation of the Tribunal.
- (3) The report must not contain information in relation to the evidence given in closed hearings or other confidential matters.
- (4) The report must be given to the Minister within 3 months after the end of the financial year or such other period as the Minister determines.
- (5) The Minister must table a copy of the report in the Legislative Assembly within 7 sitting days after the Minister receives the report.

# GENERAL

1. This report for the year 2024/2025 is NTCAT's eleventh Annual Report.
2. For some years now NTCAT Annual Reports have raised concerns about the resourcing of the Tribunal. Since its inception in 2014 NTCAT has seen a steady and at times marked increase in jurisdictional responsibilities. In short this means that the number and type of cases to be determined by NTCAT continues to trend upwards. The table in the Jurisdictional Overview below indicates that several new jurisdictions commenced for NTCAT in 2024/25. There are several more conferrals in train at the time of compiling this annual report.
3. NTCAT's objectives include to:
  - a. Promote the best principles of public administration; and
  - b. Be accessible to the public by being easy to find and easy to access; and
  - c. Be responsive to parties, especially people with special needs; and
  - d. Ensure that proceedings are processed and resolved as quickly as possible while achieving a just outcome, including by resolving disputes through high-quality processes and the use of mediation and alternative dispute resolution procedures when appropriate; and
  - e. Use straightforward language and procedures; and act with as little formality and technicality as possible; and be flexible in the way it conducts its business and adjust its procedures to best fit the circumstances of a particular proceeding or a particular jurisdiction.
4. The Tribunal was created and designed to be an easily accessible forum capable of delivering fair and efficient justice. In almost all of the matters it deals with there is an expectation that the Tribunal will deliver written reasons for its decisions within 28 days of a hearing.
5. The types of matters that NTCAT deals with vary enormously. Simple small claims and tenancy disputes can usually be dealt with swiftly with minimal case-management. Other matters such as Anti-Discrimination complaints and disputes about Petroleum exploration may require multi-day hearings where parties are legally represented and involve evidence and cross-examination of witnesses including experts.
6. The expansion of NTCAT's jurisdictional responsibility occurs overwhelmingly in its review jurisdiction. This means, most often, that some other authority has already made a decision which is open to review by NTCAT. It ordinarily means that there is a large amount of material to be considered and a high degree of complexity to the proceeding.
7. In recognition of the increasing variety and complexity of the Tribunal's work-load, NTCAT advocated strongly during the reporting period for increased resources. They are sorely needed

to ensure that we continue to be able to operate in a way that meets the objectives under the Act. Toward the end of this reporting period NTCAT was advised that requests for additional resources will not be accommodated in the 2024/25 budget. The Department has been instructed to commission a review of NTCAT.

8. The last Annual Report recommended a review of the NTCAT Act with a view to improving the administration and operation of the Tribunal. It appears that the proposed review may be somewhat broader than a review of the Act. NTCAT has been and will continue to work with the Department to establish Terms of Reference for any review and to ensure that whoever conducts the review has a good understanding of the nature and breadth of the work that falls within the jurisdiction of NTCAT.
9. As things currently stand, it is becoming increasingly more difficult for NTCAT to meet its objectives under the Act. As new responsibilities are sent NTCAT's way it will be necessary to prioritise more pressing matters at the expense of others.

## JURISDICTIONAL OVERVIEW

10. As at 30 June 2025 jurisdiction had been conferred upon NTCAT under the following Acts

### Acts

DATE JURISDICTION CONFERRED ON NTCAT	LEGISLATION
1-Jan-15	<i>Energy Pipelines Act 1981</i>
1-Jan-15	<i>Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Conferral of Jurisdiction for Native Title Matters) Act 2014</i>
1-Jan-15	<i>Petroleum Act 1984 and Petroleum Regulations 2020</i>
1-Jul-15	<i>Anti-Discrimination Act 1992</i>
1-May-16	<i>Cullen Bay Marina Act 1992</i>
28-Jul-16	<i>Advance Personal Planning Act 2013</i>
28-Jul-16	<i>Guardianship of Adults Act 2016</i>
30-Nov-17	<i>Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2017</i>
25-Apr-20	<i>Business Tenancies (Fair Dealings) Act 2003</i>
14-Apr-21	<i>Administration and Probate Act 1969</i>
2-Jul-24	<i>Health Care Decision Making Act 2023</i>
1-Jan-15	<i>Control of Roads Act 1953</i>
1-Jan-15	<i>Fences Act 1972</i>
1-Jan-15	<i>Building Act and Building (Resolution of Residential Building Work Disputes Regulations) 2012</i>
1-Jan-15	<i>Geothermal Energy Act 2009</i>
1-Jan-15	<i>Heritage Act 2011</i>
1-Jan-15	<i>Lands Acquisition Act 1978</i>



1-Jan-15	<i>Mineral Titles Act 2010</i>
1-Jan-15	<i>Termination of Units Plans and Unit Titles Schemes Act 2014</i>
1-Jun-15	<i>Caravan Parks Act 2012</i>
1-Jun-15	<i>Health Practitioner Regulation (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2010</i>
1-Jun-15	<i>Local Government Act 2019</i>
1-Jun-15	<i>Residential Tenancies Act 1999</i>
1-May-16	<i>Small Claims Act 2016</i>
1-May-16	<i>Unit Title Schemes Act 2009</i>
1-May-16	<i>Unit Titles Act 1975</i>
3-Jun-20	<i>Mental Health and Related Services Act 1998</i>
27-Nov-23	<i>Associations Act 2003</i>
27-Nov-23	<i>Consumer Affairs and Fair Trading Act 1990</i>
1-Jan-15	<i>Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1996</i>
1-Jan-15	<i>Gaming Control Act 1993</i>
1-Jan-15	<i>Gaming Machine Act 1995</i>
1-Jan-15	<i>Kava Management Act 1998</i>
1-Jan-15	<i>Liquor Act 2019</i>
1-Jan-15	<i>Pastoral Land Act 1992</i>
1-Jan-15	<i>Planning Act 1999</i>
1-Jan-15	<i>Poppy Regulation Act 2014</i>
1-Jan-15	<i>Private Security Act 1995</i>
1-Jan-15	<i>Tobacco Control Act 2002</i>
1-Jan-15	<i>Totalisator Licensing and Regulation Act 2000</i>
1-Jan-15	<i>Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2006</i>
23-Apr-15	<i>Darwin Waterfront Corporation Act</i>
9-Jun-15	<i>Marine Act 1981</i>
9-Jun-15	<i>Ports Management Act 2015</i>
1-Jul-15	<i>Administrators Pensions Act 1981</i>
1-Jul-15	<i>Cooperatives (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2015</i>
1-Jul-15	<i>Legislative Assembly Members' Pension Act 1979</i>
1-Jul-15	<i>Superannuation Act 1986</i>
1-Jan-16	<i>Education Act 2015</i>
1-May-16	<i>Information Act 2002</i>
5-Jul-16	<i>Training and Skills Development Act 2016</i>
10-Aug-16	<i>Racing and Betting Act 1983</i>
1-Jan-17	<i>Fisheries Act 1988</i>
1-Sep-17	<i>Alcohol Harm Reduction Act 2017</i>
14-Nov-18	<i>Expungement of Historical Homosexual Offence Records Act 2018</i>
1-Jul-19	<i>National Disability Insurance Scheme Authorisations Act 2019</i>
11-Dec-19	<i>Auctioneers Act 1935</i>
1-Jan-20	<i>Teacher Registration (Northern Territory) Act 2004</i>
3-Feb-20	<i>Construction Contracts (Security of Payments) Act 2004</i>
2-Mar-20	<i>Firearms Act 1997</i>
6-May-20	<i>Hemp Industry Act 2019</i>



12-Jun-20	<i>Sex Industry Act 2020</i>
1-Jul-20	<i>National Disability Insurance Scheme (Work Clearance) Act 2020</i>
1-Nov-22	<i>Animal Protection Act 2018</i>
29-Nov-22	<i>Burial and Cremation Act 2022</i>
27-Nov-23	<i>Agents Licensing Act 1979</i>
27-Nov-23	<i>Bushfires Management Act 2016</i>
27-Nov-23	<i>Commercial and Private Agents Licensing Act 1979 and Regulations</i>
27-Nov-23	<i>Community Housing Providers (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2013</i>
27-Nov-23	<i>Meat Industries Act 1996</i>
27-Nov-23	<i>Northern Territory Rates Act 1971</i>
27-Nov-23	<i>Notifiable Diseases Act 1981</i>
27-Nov-23	<i>Taxation Administration Act 2007</i>
30-Apr-24	<i>Livestock Act 2008</i>
12-Jun-24	<i>Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976 and Regulations and Bylaws</i>
1-Jul-24	<i>Environment Protection Act 2019</i>
2-Jul-24	<i>Racing and Wagering Act 2024</i>
2-Jul-24	<i>Water Act 1992</i>

## Proceedings

11. In this reporting period 2,746 new NTCAT proceedings were commenced across all jurisdictions. The Mental Health jurisdiction accounted for the highest volume of new matters (856). Tribunal hearings under the *Mental Health and Related Services Act 1998* provide a good example of the complicated resource demands that need to be accommodated by the Tribunal. Proceedings under that legislation require the Tribunal to be constituted by three Members with one Member being a legal practitioner; one an appropriate medical professional (a psychiatrist); and one a member of the community. This manifestation of the Tribunal sits three times each week and sittings may last up to a full day. Accordingly, the Tribunal has no option but to engage sessional Members to preside in these cases. The Act also requires the appointment of legal representatives which, in certain circumstances, are funded by NTCAT. This jurisdiction accounts for one of the four highest volume case-load areas each year and is the Tribunal's most resource intensive jurisdiction to operate. The other three "high-volume" jurisdictions during the reporting period were under the *Small Claims Act 2016*; the *Guardianship of Adults Act 2016 and Advance Personal Planning Act 2013* (together referred to as guardianship matters); and the *Residential Tenancies Act 1999*. Table 1 below reveals a reduction in the number of proceedings filed under the *Small Claims Act 2016*. It also reveals that the number of proceedings in this jurisdiction fluctuates significantly from year to year. This is explained by the cyclical nature of proceedings filed by one high profile Applicant. It is expected that any reduction in numbers this year is likely to be made up in the year ahead.
12. The remaining 89 proceedings were across a range of NTCAT's various jurisdictions. This represents an increase in the number of review proceedings conducted under various "low volume" jurisdictions. In some cases, for example the *Health Practitioners Regulation (NUL) Act 2010* and the *Firearms Act 1997*, the Tribunal is required to constitute panels which include Members with

particular areas of expertise. As with the Mental Health jurisdiction, this means that qualified sessional Members must be appointed at a cost to NTCAT. In other jurisdictions such as the *Local Government Act 2019* and the *Liquor Act 2019*, the Tribunal is required to review decisions made by multiple decision makers. In yet others, for example the *Petroleum Act 1984* and the *Pastoral Land Act 1992*, the Tribunal may review decisions of relevant NT Government Ministers. Quite apart from those jurisdictions which mandate a multi-Member NTCAT Tribunal, there are regular circumstances in the exercise of Review Jurisdiction, where multi-Member Tribunals are or would be desirable.

13. Apart from the four 'high volume' jurisdictions, in this reporting period new NTCAT proceedings were commenced under the following Acts:

- *Animal Protection Act 2018*
- *Anti-Discrimination Act 1992*
- *Associations Act 2003*
- *Building Act 1993*
- *Burial And Cremation Act 2022*
- *Fences Act 1972*
- *Firearms Act 1997*
- *Health Practitioner Regulation (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2010*
- *Heritage Act 2011*
- *Information Act 2002*
- *Liquor Act 2019*
- *Local Government Act 2019*
- *Mineral Titles Act 2010*
- *Pastoral Land Act 1992*
- *Petroleum Act 1984*
- *Racing and Wagering Act 2024*
- *Teacher Registration (Northern Territory) Act 2004*
- *Taxation Administration Act 2007*
- *Unit Titles Act 1975*
- *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2006*

14. These matters regularly require interim decisions to be made. For example, a proceeding under the *Petroleum Act 1984*, for a review of a decision of a Minister has required consideration of applications for a stay; for the introduction of new evidence; and for the issuing of evidence summonses. Parties are legally represented and the material filed is voluminous and technical in nature. The resource implications for the Tribunal are significant, requiring many hours of hearing and consideration in preparation for a final hearing.

# STAFFING

## Senior Staff

15. NTCAT remains indebted to a committed, capable and collaborative team. For the reporting period, NTCAT's senior staff comprised of:

- Judge Mark O'Reilly – President;
- Andrew Macrides – Member;
- Ingrid Meier – Member;
- Peta Yujnovich – Registrar and Director
- Danielle Hutchison – Acting Deputy Registrar
- Dane Armstrong – Acting Tribunal Manager

## Tribunal Coordinators

16. The senior staff were supported by a Listing Co-ordinator, a Senior Tribunal Coordinator and eight tribunal coordinators – five in Darwin and three in Alice Springs.

## Members

17. The President, two Full-Time Members and the Registrar (who is able to constitute the Tribunal for certain matters) have had the conduct of the majority of the caseload of NTCAT for the reporting period.

18. NTCAT relies on a pool of sessional Members for the conduct of compulsory conferences and selected hearings. Sessional Members with specialist qualifications are routinely required to sit on Tribunals exercising jurisdiction under the *Mental Health and Related Services Act 1998*, the *Firearms Act 1997* and the *Health Practitioner Regulation (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2010*. NTCAT extends its thanks to its hard working sessional Members.

19. The following were sessional members of NTCAT during the reporting period:

Existing membership	
Name	Expiry date
<b>Sessional ordinary ('legal') member appointed under section 16(2) (a) for five years</b>	
Katrina Joanna BUDRIKIS	06.12.2028
David Graham ALDERMAN	12.04.2028
David Richard BALDRY	12.04.2028
Russell Raymond GOLDFLAM	12.04.2028
Kenneth John GRIME	12.04.2028
Lesley HASTWELL	12.04.2028
Ronald Michael David LEVY	12.04.2028

Existing membership	
Leslie Alexander MCCRIMMON	12.04.2028
Robert Frederick PERRY	12.04.2028
George Michael ROUSSOS	12.04.2028
Benjamin Robert GRIMES	09.08.2027
Joshua Craig INGRAMES	09.08.2027
Julian Quentin JOHNSON	09.08.2027
Megan Louise LAWTON	09.08.2027
Jodie Alva MATHER	09.08.2027
Alison Tryphena PHYLIS	09.08.2027
Richard Hugh BRUXNER	04.04.2027
Linda Ann MORGAN	22.02.2027
Richard Grant GILES	22.02.2027
Gregory John SHANAHAN	22.02.2027
Michael McKillip GROVE	22.02.2027
Sally May GEARIN	22.02.2027
Samantha Julie MILES	22.02.2027
Ian Leonard READ	22.02.2027
<b>Sessional ordinary ('community and medical') member appointed under section 16(2) (b) for five years.</b>	
Randall Sydney CHIN	06.12.2028
Steven Howard ROBERTSON	24.05.2028
Jill Diane HUCK	12.04.2028
Kathleen Gail LUPPINO	12.04.2028
Paul Hubert RYSAVY	12.04.2028
Diane Louise SZARKOWICZ	12.04.2028
Teresa Mary GARRONE	09.08.2027
James Lawrence Merewyn GREENWOOD	09.08.2027
Suzi Anastasia KAPETAS	09.08.2027
Frances Mary KILGARIFF	09.08.2027
Patricia Diane KURNOTH	09.08.2027
Peter John O'BRIEN	09.08.2027
Arnold Clyde WAUGH	09.08.2027
Donald Lewis ZOELLNER	09.08.2027
Monika Ruth MOY	24.08.2026
Marion ISOBEL GUPPY	24.08.2026
Elizabeth VEEL	24.08.2026
Miriam Ruth MCDONALD	24.08.2026

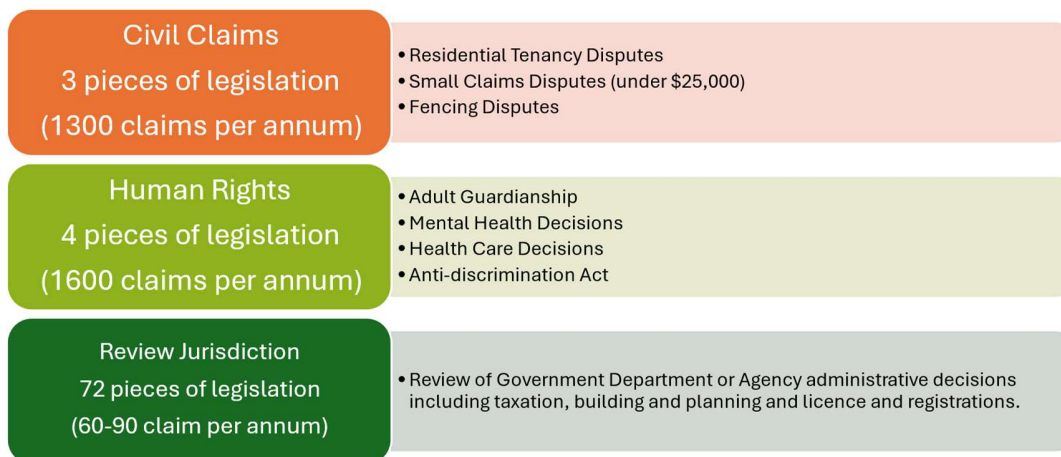


Existing membership	
Adam SATTAR	24.08.2026
Barry Gavin JENKINS	22.02.2027
Elizabeth Ann PARRELLA	22.02.2027
Claudia Monique Giselle ESPENSCHIED	22.02.2027
Mary Elisabeth FROST	27.09.2027
<b>Additional Sessional ordinary member appointed under section 16 A for two years.</b>	
Tony CHALKER	06.08.2026

## Additional full-time member / Deputy President

20. The Tribunal remains without a Deputy President notwithstanding the requirement for one under section 15 of the NTCAT Act. Resource modelling commissioned by the Department during the reporting period confirms that the appointment of an additional Member is justified. A snapshot of statistics recognised in the modelling appears below.

## NTCAT Work



21. Ideally an additional Member would be appointed as a Deputy President. There are several roles and responsibilities under the Act that would appropriately be delegated to a Deputy President including some that currently are not open to delegation. While currently not resourced to appoint a new Member, the President is continuing to advocate for funding.

## Supernumerary Positions in the Registry

22. The last Annual Report referred to the CEO approved creation of an unfunded AO5 position (Senior Co-ordinator) for a period of 6 months (with rolling approval every 6 months since) and the creation of an unfunded SAO1 position (Deputy Registrar) for a period of 2 years. The latter position expires in January 2026.
23. Those positions were approved in recognition of the increasing administrative needs of the Tribunal. One aspect of the attempt to secure additional resources was the hope that these supernumerary positions would have been confirmed as permanent positions. Permanency offers job security to staff and allows the Tribunal to recruit committed and capable people to the roles. Sadly, we are not yet able to rely on these positions in the longer term. As reported last year, it is essential for the ongoing efficient management of the Tribunal that these roles become permanent rather than remaining as supernumerary. This will create both certainty for the employees in these roles and long-term stability in staffing for the Tribunal.

## FACILITIES

### Registries

24. During the reporting period, NTCAT has continued to maintain registries in Darwin (Casuarina) and Alice Springs.
25. There has been no significant change to NTCAT facilities during the reporting period.
26. Indeed, despite funding having previously been allocated for a refurbishment of NTCAT's leased premises at Casuarina, we have been advised that the funding has been redirected. Accordingly, for the foreseeable future it is likely that NTCAT will remain in its current premises. As described in the last Annual Report, there are serious security and functional concerns with the current premises. For example, there is no facility for security screening and two of the hearing rooms have only one point of access and egress. Security measures for NTCAT should be in line with those required in a Court setting. NTCAT will continue to advocate on this front.

## PROCEDURES AND SYSTEMS

### Case Management

27. During the reporting period there has been no significant change to NTCAT's case management procedures. As much as possible NTCAT maintains a uniform process for initiating an application in any of its jurisdictions. The nature of any Initiating Application filed triggers a standard process and determines which orders and directions will be issued by the registry.

The Mental Health and Adult Guardianship and Internal Review jurisdictions require a departure from the standard procedure. As new jurisdictions are conferred NTCAT assesses the suitability of current procedures on a case by case basis and adjusts its processes accordingly.

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

### Membership, Conference Attendance, Committees and Forums

28. The President continues to represent NTCAT on the executive committee of the Council of Australasian Tribunals ('COAT') and on the Australian Guardianship and Administrative Council ('AGAC').
29. In June 2025, the annual COAT conference was held in Melbourne, Victoria and attended by the President in person and virtually by full time Member Ingrid Meier and Registrar, Peta Yujnovich. Apart from the conference content which is aimed specifically at Tribunal Members, the Annual Conference creates an opportunity for Members and Heads of Tribunals to meet and share ideas about specific jurisdictional practices. The Annual Conference also incorporates the COAT AGM. The COAT provides an avenue of access to resources and knowledge that are invaluable to NTCAT as a smaller Tribunal.
30. The Tribunal is also represented by Ingrid Meier as an Advocate on the Diversity and Inclusion Justice Network (DIJN) and by Peta Yujnovich on the Attorney General's Strategic People and Culture Committee. The President is a Member of the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration and is a Member of the Northern Territory Judicial Commission.
31. The Tribunal meets quarterly with the office of the Public Guardian.
32. During the reporting period the Tribunal held a Forum for stakeholders in the Mental Health jurisdiction to consider ways of improving the conduct of proceedings under the relevant Act. The Forum was well attended by medical and legal professionals who regularly appear before the Tribunal.

### Consultation

33. NTCAT continues to take every opportunity to consult with Departments, Statutory bodies and other entities seeking to confer jurisdiction on the Tribunal by way of new or amended legislation. Notable consultation in this reporting period related to amendments to the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1992*; the *Residential Tenancies Act 1999*; the *Swimming Pool Safety Act 2004*; and the *Valuation of Land Act 1963*.

# MATTERS IN SECTION 151 (2) OF THE NTCAT ACT

34. The following paragraphs address the matters listed in section 151 (2) of the NTCAT Act.

## ‘The number, nature and outcome of matters that have come before the Tribunal – Section 151 (2) (a)’

35. The following tables include breakdowns of proceedings commenced and concluded in 2024/2025.

36. In both the guardianship and mental health review jurisdictions, a large part of NTCAT’s workload involves the review of earlier orders made in respect of a person. There will usually only be one Tribunal “matter” (or file) for that person, but it may remain on foot for many years (with sporadic activity throughout that period). As such, many proceedings in these jurisdictions are not ‘commenced’ or ‘concluded’ in the same sense as proceedings in other NTCAT jurisdictions. Because of these differences, statistics for the guardianship and mental health review jurisdiction are presented separately below.

**Table 1**

### Proceedings Commenced: Jurisdictions other than Adult Guardianship & Mental Health Review

JURISDICTION	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
<i>Agents Licensing Act 1979</i>	0	0	0	2	0
<i>Animal Protection Act 2018</i>	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Alcohol Harm Reduction Act 2017</i>	5	3	2	0	0
<i>Anti-Discrimination Act 1992</i>	18	4	2	3	2
<i>Associations Act 2003</i>	0	0	0	0	2
<i>Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1996</i>	2	0	0	0	0
<i>Building Act 1993</i>	9	7	7	6	8
<i>Burial and Cremation Act 2022</i>	0	0	0	0	5
<i>Business Tenancies (Fair Dealings) Act 2003</i>	1	0	0	0	0
<i>Caravan Parks Act 2012</i>	0	1	0	1	0
<i>Cullen Bay Marina Act 1992</i>	0	0	1	0	0
<i>Fences Act 1972</i>	4	0	1	2	5



<i>Firearms Act 1972</i>	1	0	1	3	12
<i>Fisheries Act 1988</i>	0	0	0	1	0
<i>Gaming Machine Act 1995</i>	0	0	0	4	0
<i>Health Practitioner Regulation (N.U.L) Act 2010</i>	4	5	9	6	6
<i>Health Practitioners Act 2004</i>	0	0	2	0	0
<i>Heritage Act 2011</i>	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Information Act 2002</i>	2	6	2	1	1
<i>Lands Acquisition Act 1978</i>	1	0	0	0	0
<i>Liquor Act 2019</i>	4	1	0	4	2
<i>Local Government Act 2019</i>	4	4	0	5	2
<i>Mineral Titles Act 2010</i>	0	3	0	0	1
<i>Pastoral Land Act 1992</i>	1	1	0	0	1
<i>Petroleum Act 1984</i>	0	4	2	2	2
<i>Planning Act 1999</i>	9	2	2	4	2
<i>Private Security Act 1995</i>	2	2	4	1	0
<i>Racing and Wagering Act 2024</i>	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Residential Tenancies Act 1999</i>	422	468	510	598	578
<i>Small Claims Act 2016</i>	1170	370	1413	926	553
<i>Superannuation Act 1986</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Teacher Registration (Northern Territory) Act 2004</i>	3	0	4	0	1
<i>Taxation Administration Act 2007</i>					1
<i>Unit Titles Act 1975</i>	10	15	11	9	22
<i>Unit Title Schemes Act 2009</i>	1	2	1	1	0
<i>Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2006</i>	10	7	3	4	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1683</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>1977</b>	<b>1583</b>	<b>1220</b>

Table 2

## Proceedings Commenced: Adult Guardianship

JURISDICTION	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
<i>Advance Personal Planning Act 2013</i> (new applications)	1	10	7	13	12
<i>Guardianship of Adults Act 2016</i> (new applications)	250	216	265	258	230
<i>Health Care Decision Making Act 2023</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1



<i>Guardianship of Adults Act 2016</i> (reassessments of existing orders initiated)	349	282	342	466	428
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>671</b>

Table 3

## Matters requiring discrete orders: Mental Health Review

DISCRETE ORDER	2020/ 21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Involuntary detention mental illness	226	172	196	249	212
Involuntary detention mental disturbance	19	12	15	14	7
Review tribunal order	43	31	33	30	27
Revoke admission discharge from facility	0	0	6	3	4
Discharge within seven days	6	4	10	4	3
Community Management Order made	223	232	236	297	389
Community Management Order declined	6	7	4	6	5
Review report – further action	0	4	3	0	0
Review report – no further action	45	68	33	37	28
Authorise electroconvulsive therapy	27	19	20	18	23
Authorise non-psychiatric treatment	7	11	4	6	4
Authorise major medical procedure	1	1	7	5	3
Warrant to apprehend for assessment	37	60	29	51	33
Adjournment	60	65	56	91	118
No order made	3	8	0	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>856</b>

Table 4

## Proceedings Concluded: Jurisdictions other than Adult Guardianship &amp; Mental Health Review

JURISDICTION	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
<i>Agents Licensing Act 1979</i>	0	0	0	0	2
<i>Alcohol Harm Reduction Act 2017</i>	4	4	2	0	0
<i>Animal Protection Act 2018</i>	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Anti-Discrimination Act 1992</i>	8	12	6	3	1
<i>Associations Act 2003</i>	0	0	0	0	1



<i>Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1996</i>	1	1	0	0	0
<i>Building Act 1993</i>	0	9	20	5	3
<i>Business Tenancies (Fair Dealings) Act 2003</i>	0	1	0	0	0
<i>Burial and Cremation Act 2022</i>	0	0	0	0	3
<i>Caravan Parks Act 2012</i>	0	0	0	1	0
<i>Cullen Bay Marina Act 1992</i>	0	0	1	0	0
<i>Fences Act 1972</i>	4	0	1	0	7
<i>Firearms Act 1972</i>	0	1	1	1	9
<i>Fisheries Act 1988</i>	0	0	0	1	0
<i>Health Practitioner Regulation (N.U.L.) Act 2010</i>	1	7	8	4	6
<i>Health Practitioners Act 2004</i>	0	0	1	1	0
<i>Heritage Act 2011</i>	0	1	0	0	0
<i>Information Act 2002</i>	4	6	2	1	1
<i>Lands Acquisition Act 1978</i>	0	1	0	0	0
<i>Liquor Act 2019</i>	6	0	0	2	4
<i>Local Government Act 2019</i>	0	8	0	1	4
<i>Mineral Titles Act 2010</i>	0	2	0	0	1
<i>Pastoral Land Act 1992</i>	0	1	1	0	0
<i>Petroleum Act 1984</i>	0	0	2	3	1
<i>Planning Act 1999</i>	7	6	2	3	3
<i>Private Security Act 1995</i>	1	1	5	2	0
<i>Racing and Betting Act 1983</i>	1	0	0	0	0
<i>Residential Tenancies Act 1999</i>	429	472	512	578	560
<i>Small Claims Act 2016</i>	904	1136	725	1243	770
<i>Superannuation Act 1986</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Teacher Registration (Northern Territory) Act 2004</i>	0	2	1	4	1
<i>Unit Titles Act 1975</i>	9	18	11	10	17
<i>Unit Title Schemes Act 2009</i>	1	0	2	2	0
<i>Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2006</i>	7	7	7	3	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1387</b>	<b>1697</b>	<b>1310</b>	<b>1868</b>	<b>1405</b>



**Table 5**  
**Hearing Outcomes: Adult Guardianship**

<b>TYPE OF ORDER</b> <b>(Section of <i>Guardianship of Adults Act 2016</i>)</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>
New guardianship order (s11)	191	171	161	187	178
Continued guardianship order – reassessment (s11, s38)	313	263	256	355	365
Interim (urgent) guardianship order (s20)	92	77	70	36	23
Specified measures (s35)	50	6	0	0	0
Vary guardianship order (s39)	83	58	68	88	68
Revoke guardianship order (s39)	26	17	27	42	67
Register interstate order (s54)	6	4	13	6	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>709</b>

**‘The number and nature of matters before the Tribunal that are incomplete as at the end of the financial year’ - Section 151 (2) (b)**

37. Not including adult guardianship and mental health review proceedings, there were 444 matters that remained active at the end of the reporting period.

**Table 6**  
**Proceedings Active: Jurisdictions other than Adult Guardianship and Mental Health Review**

<b>JURISDICTION</b>	<b>ACTIVE</b> <b>(as at 30</b> <b>June</b> <b>2021)</b>	<b>ACTIVE</b> <b>(as at 30</b> <b>June</b> <b>2022)</b>	<b>ACTIVE</b> <b>(as at 30</b> <b>June</b> <b>2023)</b>	<b>ACTIVE</b> <b>(as at 30</b> <b>June</b> <b>2024)</b>	<b>ACTIVE</b> <b>(as at 30</b> <b>June</b> <b>2025)</b>
<i>Alcohol Harm Reduction Act 2017</i>	1	0	0	0	0
<i>Agents Licensing Act 1979</i>	0	0	0	2	0
<i>Anti-Discrimination Act 1992</i>	13	6	3	2	2
<i>Animal Protection Act 2018</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Associations Act 2003</i>	0	0	0	0	1

<i>Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1996</i>	1	0	0	0	0
<i>Building Act 1993</i>	9	8	0	1	5
<i>Business Tenancies (Fair Dealings) Act 2003</i>	1	0	0	0	0
<i>Burial and Cremation Act 2022</i>	0	0	0	0	2
<i>Cullen Bay Marina Act 1992</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Fences Act 1972</i>	0	0	0	2	0
<i>Firearms Act 1972</i>	1	0	0	2	5
<i>Gaming Machine Act 1995</i>	0	0	0	2	0
<i>Health Practitioner Regulation (N.U.L) Act 2010</i>	3	4	4	5	4
<i>Health Practitioners Act 2004</i>	0	0	1	0	0
<i>Heritage Act 2011</i>	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Information Act 2002</i>	1	1	1	1	0
<i>Lands Acquisition Act 1978</i>	1	0	0	0	0
<i>Liquor Act 2019</i>	0	2	0	2	1
<i>Local Government Act 2019</i>	4	0	0	4	2
<i>Mineral Titles Act 2010</i>	0	1	1	0	0
<i>Pastoral Land Act 1992</i>	1	1	0	0	1
<i>Petroleum Act 1984</i>	0	4	4	2	2
<i>Planning Act 1999</i>	6	2	2	2	2
<i>Private Security Act 1995</i>	1	2	1	0	0
<i>Racing and Betting Act 1983</i>	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Residential Tenancies Act 1999</i>	79	132	126	120	144
<i>Small Claims Act 2016</i>	792	122	764	446	256
<i>Taxation Administration Act 2007</i>	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Teacher Registration (Northern Territory) Act 2004</i>	3	1	4	0	0
<i>Unit Titles Act 1975</i>	5	6	7	4	9
<i>Unit Title Schemes Act 2009</i>	0	2	1	0	0
<i>Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2006</i>	5	7	2	3	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>444</b>

**‘Any trends or special problems that may have emerged’ – section 151 (2) (c)**

38. The most significant problem for NTCAT relates to resourcing. It is one that has been emerging over some years and is exacerbated by the increase in Review Jurisdictions conferred on the

Tribunal. At the Registry level the Tribunal is currently operational, and has been for the entire reporting period, by virtue of the addition of supernumerary positions. Without those positions the Tribunal would be critically understaffed. The Tribunal currently operates with three full time Members and a pool of sessional Members. Efficiency and quality would be improved with the appointment of an additional full-time Member who should also be a Deputy President. As jurisdictions expand it will become increasingly more difficult to conduct and determine proceedings in accordance with the Objectives under the Act without further resources.

39. The Tribunal has noticed an increased number of Initiating Applications and/or Responses filed by so called "sovereign citizens". On at least one occasion in a matter of this type there has been aggressive behaviour toward a Member resulting in a need to have security and police involved. This is greatly concerning in circumstances where there are inadequate security facilities in our current premises.

**'In relation to the matters that have come before the Tribunal – the level of compliance by decision makers with requirements to...notify persons of reviewable decisions and their rights to seek review' - section 151 (2) (d) (i)**

40. There were no concerns arising from proceedings before the Tribunal about compliance by decision makers with the requirement to provide notice of decisions and a right of review.

**'In relation to the matters that have come before the Tribunal - the level of compliance by decision makers with requirements to...provide written reasons for reviewable decisions when requested to do so' – Section 151 92) (d) (ii)**

41. There has been a high level of compliance with the requirement to provide written reasons on request under section 35(1) of the NTCAT Act and no cause to require written reasons under section 36.

**'Forecasts of the workload of the Tribunal in the next financial year' – Section 151 (2) (e)**

42. Based on the activity of the last 3 reporting periods, lodgements to date and pending matters, the following estimates are made for the 2025 / 2026 financial year:

Jurisdiction	Estimate of new matters
Small Claims and other similar disputes	950
Residential Tenancies	560
Guardianship	700
Mental Health	900
Matters in non-routine jurisdictions	100

43. It is important to recognise that the above estimates do not distinguish between simple and complex matters.

**‘Any proposals for improving the management and operation of the Tribunal’ – Section 151 (2) (f)**

The current needs of the Tribunal have been articulated throughout the body of this report. To be clear, NTCAT does not resist the conferral of new jurisdictions. It is consistent with our objectives that NTCAT’s responsibilities will expand as new or varied legislation introduces further need for decision-making. To date NTCAT has a proven ability to make high quality decisions efficiently. It is self-evident, however, that resources must keep pace with growth. In short, the management and operation of the Tribunal would be improved by a serious consideration of resource needs including the suitability of NTCAT’s current premises.