



NEW SOUTH WALES BAR ASSOCIATION

COVID-19: INFORMATION FOR ATTENDING COURT

Latest news as at 18 November 2022

ATTENDING COURT

Courts and Tribunals have measures in place to conduct proceedings without the need for attending where possible, to respond to the developing COVID-19 pandemic. The Association is in constant contact with the Courts and Tribunals.

Click on the links below to jump to the latest information received about:

- [Supreme Court of NSW](#)
- [Land and Environment Court of NSW](#)
- [District Court of NSW](#)
- [Local Court of NSW](#)
- [Children's Court of NSW](#)
- [Coroner's Court of NSW](#)
- [NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal](#)
- [NSW Industrial Relations Commission](#)
- [Personal Injury Commission](#)
- [High Court of Australia](#)
- [Federal Court of Australia](#)
- [Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia](#)
- [Administrative Appeals Tribunal](#)
- [Fair Work Commission](#)
- [Copyright Tribunal of Australia](#)

SUPPORTING MEMBERS & CLIENTS

The Bar Association continues to actively monitor COVID-19 developments and impacts on the Courts. Protecting the health, safety and interests of members, while continuing to promote the administration of justice and serve the public good, is our priority at this difficult time.

We are consistently updating our website and this point-in-time resource as information comes to hand. **However, please always double-check the latest Court resources directly as developments are changing quickly at this time, and do not make any assumptions regarding your case without first doing so.**

Key contacts

For the latest health information, please visit the following COVID-19 pages from:

- [Australian Government, Department of Health – COVID-19 Resources](#):
- [NSW Department of Health](#)

Wellbeing

Be mindful of your resilience and wellbeing during this challenging time. If you're concerned about yourself or a colleague, visit [barcare.org](#)

CURRENT RESTRICTIONS OVERVIEW: NSW

[You can find the latest information from NSW Communities and Justice here](#)

You do not need to attend a Court or Tribunal unless you:

- are a party to a court or tribunal matter and no other arrangements are in place to conduct proceedings remotely
- are a juror already empanelled for ongoing trials ([see here for further information](#))
- require face-to-face services of the registry and no other arrangements are in place to enable this remotely
- are a representative of a news-media organisation with a legitimate reason for attending court.

Do not attend a court or tribunal if you:

- have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 7 days
- have had close contact with a person who has had COVID-19 in the last 7 days
- you are waiting for a COVID test result
- you are feeling unwell and have any of the following symptoms:
 - fever
 - cough
 - sore throat
 - shortness of breath.

SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

For further info & practitioners' guidelines, visit [the Supreme Court's website and latest announcements page](#).

On 10 OCTOBER 2022 THE SUPREME COURT MADE THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT:

BULLETIN - Ending of Covid-19 Protocols: Operation of Registrar Lists

The Supreme Court has today issued the following Bulletin [Ending of Covid-19 Protocols: Operation of Registrar Lists](#).

ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2022 THE SUPREME COURT MADE THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT:

Ending of Supreme Court Covid-19 Protocols – Effective from 01 October 2022

The Court's current Covid-19 protocols, for civil and criminal matters, **will cease to operate from 1 October 2022**.

Consistent with the latest health advice, masks are therefore no longer required to be worn in public areas, including courtrooms unless you are a household or close contact of someone that has tested positive to Covid-19. The Court continues to encourage mask wearing in crowded places, noting they do provide an extra layer of protection against Covid-19 and the flu. Anyone that wishes to wear a mask in the Court's precincts or in court rooms may continue to do so.

From 1 October 2022, there will no longer be any requirement to provide proof of vaccination to enter the Supreme Court. The Court encourages everyone to stay up to date with their vaccinations and boosters.

The Court's audio-visual links (video and telephone) will continue to operate and remain available for use as appropriate as determined by the lost, trial or duty judge and registrars. The use of AVL will be encouraged where it is in the interest of justice to do so, including where it will have the effect of minimising disproportionate cost to parties.

The Court is grateful to the legal profession, litigants, media and members of the public for their adherence to the various protocols which have operated since March 2020.

The Honourable A. S. Bell

Chief Justice of New South Wales

Supreme Court of New South Wales

29 September 2022

LAND AND ENVIRONMENT COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

For further information, visit [the LEC's website and announcements page](#).

ON 18 NOVEMBER 2022 THE COURT PUBLISHED THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT ON ITS WEBSITE:

[Ending the COVID-19 Pandemic Arrangements Policy for the Land and Environment Court of NSW](#)

The Chief Judge announces that the Land and Environment Court's COVID-19 Pandemic Arrangements Policy will be revoked on **28 November 2022**.

From 28 November 2022, the registrar lists on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays each week will be conducted in person, with Mondays list conducted by AVL. The Friday List Judge and LVC list will also be conducted in person.

If a party wishes to appear otherwise than in person, the party may apply to registrar by online court or otherwise to appear by a different mode, such as by AVL or telephone. Such applications should be made no later than 12PM the day before the attendance.

If a different mode of appearance is approved, the matter will be listed at a separate time from the rest of the list.

All other listings such as conciliation conferences, mediations and hearings will be conducted at the place and by the mode ordered when the matter was listed or as otherwise directed by the court.

The Court takes this opportunity to thank the legal profession, litigants and the public for their compliance with the Court's COVID-19 Pandemic Arrangements Policy.

ON 18 FEBRUARY 2022 THE COURT PUBLISHED THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT ON ITS WEBSITE:

[COVID-19 Pandemic Arrangements Policy February 2022](#)

18 February 2022

This Policy commences on 18 February 2022. It replaces the COVID-19 Pandemic Arrangements Policy made on 1 December 2021.

The revised Policy sets out arrangements consistent with the current NSW Government requirements.

The new Policy is available [here](#) (PDF , 192.2 KB).

DISTRICT COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The [latest COVID-19 updates from the District Court can be found on its website](#)

See also [Changes to Court Operations – COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\)](#)

ON 4 OCTOBER 2022 THE DISTRICT COURT MADE THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT:

[District Court NSW & Dust Diseases Tribunal NSW COVID-19 Update 4 October 2022](#)

Face Masks

In view of changes in Federal and State Government policies and health advice, the mandatory requirement for all court participants, including jurors, to wear face masks **will end from Thursday 6 October 2022.**

Face masks are no longer required to be worn in courtrooms or public areas of the District Court or Dust Diseases Tribunal, unless a court participant is a household or close contact of someone who has tested positive to COVID-19. However, a trial Judge retains a discretion to require face masks to be worn in the courtroom.

Paragraph 30 (the mandatory wearing of face masks) of Criminal Practice Note 27 will cease to operate from **6 October 2022.**

All of the requirements concerning Rapid Antigen Self-Testing under Criminal Practice Note 27 will continue until further advised.

The Court continues to encourage face mask wearing in courtrooms, jury assembly areas and jury rooms. Anyone who wishes to wear a face mask is welcome to do so.

ON 22 APRIL 2022 THE DISTRICT COURT MADE THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT:

Commencing 2 May 2022: [District Court Criminal Practice Note 27](#) will replace District Court Criminal Practice Note 23

The Chief Judge has lifted the requirement that all court participants and jurors in District Court criminal trials be double vaccinated from 2 May 2022. Face masks and regular RAT testing will still be required for jurors and all court participants.

Accordingly, [District Court Criminal Practice Note 23](#) will be **replaced by** [District Court Criminal Practice Note 27](#), alongside the [Court Users FAQ](#).

Paragraphs 11 to 15 and 33 require notification of consent to RAT testing in the form annexed. Practice Note 27 applies to criminal trials commencing on and after **2 May 2022.**

LOCAL COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The latest updates to the [Chief Magistrate's Memorandum](#) can be found on the [Local Court's website](#).

See also [Changes to Court Operations – COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\)](#) for the Local Court

ON 30 JUNE 2022 THE LOCAL COURT ISSUED THE FOLLOWING UPDATE:

[Local Court Memorandum 28 – Commencing 4 July 2022](#)

The Chief Magistrate has released a Memorandum and it will commence on **Monday, 4 July 2022**. The new memorandum has fewer restrictions than its predecessor and marks a cautious step towards returning to normal operations.

Read the memorandum [here](#).

Court Security Act Order Expiry

Please note that on **Monday, 4 July 2022** at 5pm the current [Court Security Act Order](#) will expire. There are currently no plans to renew the Order. The expiry of the Court Security Act Order will have the practical effect that Sheriff's Officers will no longer enforce mask use and social distancing at the Local Court. Neither will Sherriff's Officers be checking if court users have 'a legitimate reason associated with a particular matter' before the person is granted access. Magistrates will retain the power to direct mask-use in their courtrooms. The Chief Magistrate may issue a further Court Security Act Order, at short notice, should the need arise in the future.

THE CHILDREN'S COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The latest COVID-19 President's public notices and announcements [can be found on the Children's Court's website](#).

ON 27 JUNE 2022 THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHILDREN'S COURT ISSUED THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT:

[PUBLIC NOTICE OF RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC No. 15](#)

24 June 2022

Commences 18 July 2022

The Children's Court has reviewed its operations in light of the current public health settings.

This Notice supersedes other Public Notices unless otherwise stated.

CORONERS COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

For more information, [visit the Coroner's Court's website](#).

ON 10 OCTOBER 2022 THE CORONERS COURT RELEASED THE FOLLOWING UPDATE:

[State Coroner's COVID-19 Memorandum No 7](#)

10 October 2022

Management of coronial hearings during the COVID-19 pandemic

The NSW State Coroner, Teresa O'Sullivan, has advised the following procedures will apply in relation to the conduct of coronial proceedings at the Lidcombe Forensic Medicine and Coroners Court Complex (FMCCC) **and any other court**.

The aim of these procedures is to reduce the risk of infection at the FMCCC and in the community.

The operation and business continuity of the Forensic Medicine and Coroners Court Complex at Lidcombe regarding the admission, examination and release of deceased persons is essential.

1. Where directed by a presiding magistrate, court users attending the Court must wear a fitted face covering / mask. Any exceptions to the wearing of masks will be considered by the presiding magistrate.
2. All parties, legal representatives and family members may apply to appear via AVL.
3. These procedures will continue to be reviewed and modified if required.

Magistrate Teresa O'Sullivan

NSW State Coroner

10 October 2022

NSW CIVIL AND & ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL

The latest information can be found in [the President's message from NCAT](#).

ON 21 OCTOBER 2022 NCAT RELEASED THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT:

Changes to COVID measures at NCAT

Announcement - 21 October 2022

The measures and precautions put in place at NCAT in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are now changing.

Return to in-person hearings

NCAT is gradually resuming in-person hearings.

Please check your hearing notice carefully. It includes important information about whether your hearing will take place in person or remotely (by audio visual link (AVL) or telephone).

Masks required for Guardianship Division

The requirement for masks has been lifted for most NCAT Divisions.

People attending a Guardianship Division hearing are required to wear a face mask when in a hearing room.

Read the President's [order under section 7 of the Court Security Act 2005](#) (PDF, 187.5 KB).

NSW INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

For further information, [visit the IRC's website](#).

ON 4 JULY 2022 THE COMMISSION MADE THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT:

[Industrial Relations Commission Protocols update](#)

4 July 2022

Virtual Courtroom (“VCR”) or in-person hearings?

It is expected that most arbitrations will now be conducted in-person. Commission members will continue to list conciliations and directions hearings by telephone, VCR or in-person at their discretion. If parties consider that there are significant reasons in support of the matter being listed by different means, the parties should confer and then jointly write to the Registrar setting out the reasons. The decision as to whether to proceed with VCR or an in-person hearing will be made by the presiding Commissioner.

Vaccination status

Evidence of vaccination is no longer a condition of entry to the Commission.

Masks

Since Friday, 25 February 2022, the wearing of masks in the Hearing Rooms has been at the discretion of the presiding Commissioner. There is no general requirement to wear masks in the Commission precinct.

Review

These protocols may change at short notice due to further COVID-19 rules announced by the NSW Government or further risk assessments completed by the Commission.

N J Constant

Chief Commissioner

4 July 2022

PERSONAL INJURY COMMISSION

For the latest information, [see the PIC's COVID-19 response page](#).

ON 5 OCTOBER 2022 THE PERSONAL INJURY COMMISSION MADE THE FOLLOWING UPDATE:

Changes to COVID-19 Safety Requirements for In-Person Dispute Resolution Events from 10 October 2022

Since the Commission recommenced in-person dispute resolution events during April 2022, we have had a number of strict protocols in place to keep event participants safe from COVID-19 transmission. These have served us well across the last six months and have enabled us to proceed with offering these important services face-to-face. We are thankful to all parties for their adherence to these protocols to date.

Due to further evolution in the pandemic conditions, however, and the way that risks associated with COVID-19 are being addressed in the community and comparable organisations, the Commission is now in a position to adjust these settings.

Effective from Monday 10 October 2022, participants attending in-person dispute resolution events will no longer be required to have received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccination or produce a negative RAT before attending the Commission premises, however this testing will continue to be encouraged.

The Commission is currently reviewing our position on mask wearing and will advise users should these requirements change in the near future.

Procedural Direction PIC 10 will be updated to reflect the changes shortly.

Parties who have already received correspondence regarding confirmed in-person event listings from 10 October 2022 will be contacted regarding these changes.

The Commission is not making changes to the safety requirements for in-person medical assessments at this stage, due to the higher risk-profile of these assessments that are conducted in close quarters, however we will reassess these controls in the near future.

The Commission remains committed to reviewing our arrangements and adjusting them as necessary as the pandemic situation develops. Thank you for your ongoing cooperation with our COVID-safety requirements.

THE PIC'S COVID-10 RESPONSE PAGE STATES:

The Personal Injury Commission's response to COVID-19

The Personal Injury Commission is continuing to deliver important services for injured workers and injured road users during the coronavirus pandemic. It is important that our people, those who use our services, our decision makers and our stakeholders are protected. The Commission is monitoring the COVID -19 situation and continues to respond quickly to changes in pandemic conditions as they happen.

Medical assessments

Medical assessments are being managed in the following way:

- In-person medical assessments are proceeding with appropriate safety controls in place.
- The majority of psychiatric medical assessments are being conducted via videoconference. In instances where a psychiatric examination must proceed in person, it will be conditional on the requirements of Procedural Direction PIC 11 as for all in-person examinations.
- Interpreter services, if required, are being provided in person, by telephone or videoconference at the Medical Assessor's direction and subsequently with the approval of the Commission President or Principal Registrar.

Medical assessments must be conducted in compliance with:

- [Procedural Direction PIC11 – Medical Assessments Procedure – COVID-19](#), and
- [Protocol for Medical Assessments During Coronavirus Pandemic](#)

Support persons will only be able to attend in person in exceptional circumstances, with approval by the Commission President or Principal Registrar.

Hearings

- Hearings are being conducted in a mix of venues including in-person at the Commission's premises with appropriate safety controls in place and virtually.
- [Procedural Direction PIC10 – Personal Injury Commission Hearings](#) sets out how matters will be heard.
- Note that hearings may need to be rescheduled should any of the participants fall ill.
- Legal representatives are requested to advise the Commission at the earliest opportunity if a hearing will not be able to proceed as scheduled due to participants being ill, so that it can be rescheduled.

Lodging applications and documents

- All applications, forms and documents must be [lodged via the Commission's online portals](#).

- Requests to review physical files will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. [Please email requests to review files.](#)

Personal Injury Commission office

- The Commission's Registry counter on Level 21 at 1 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst NSW is open Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:30pm (except public holidays).
- The Commission's Medical Assessment rooms on Level 8 at 1 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst NSW are open Monday-Friday 9:00am-5.00pm (except public holidays).
- Read more about [how to contact the Commission.](#)

HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA

For further information, [visit the HCA's website](#).

ON 8 FEBRUARY 2021 THE HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA MADE THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT:

The following Practice Direction takes effect from 8 February 2021:

-Practice Direction No. 1 of 2021 – Opening of the Registry ([PDF](#)) ([DOCX](#))

The Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra Registry staff are currently working remotely.

All enquiries for the Registries should be made by email (not telephone) to:

Sydney.Registry@hcourt.gov.au

Melbourne.Registry@hcourt.gov.au

Canberra.Registry@hcourt.gov.au

Video Connection Hearings - PROTOCOL

The High Court has issued a protocol for practitioners participating in Video Connection Hearings ([PDF](#)) ([RTF](#))

FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA

For further information, [visit the FCA's website](#).

The information and practice notes can be found on the Federal Court of Australia's [Practice Notes](#) page.

ON 14 NOVEMBER 2022 THE COURT MADE THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT:

COVID-19: Court Updates

Revoked - Special Measures Information Notes

14 November 2022:

All Special Measures Information Notes are revoked effective 10 November 2022:

- Special Measures Information Note (SMIN-1)
- Admiralty and Maritime: Warrants for the arrest of ships (SMIN-2)
- Court Attendance (SMIN-4)
- Appeals and Full Court hearings (SMIN-5)

FEDERAL CIRCUIT AND FAMILY COURT OF AUSTRALIA

For more information, visit [the FCFCOA's website and news updates](#).

ON 4 NOVEMBER 2022 THE COURT PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING UPDATE:

The Chief Justice, the Hon Chief Justice Alstergren AO, has issued the [Special Measures Information Notice – Hearing Protocol to replace the Special Measures Information Notice – COVID-19 Hearing Protocol](#), with effect from **Monday, 7 November 2022** in the FCFCOA (Division 1) and FCFCOA (Division 2).

The SMIN sets out how the Courts will continue to utilise both in-person and electronic hearings, as well as the arrangements for dispute resolution and Court Children's Service events.

It also specifies the COVIDSafe measures that continue to apply. Some of the COVIDSafe measures have been relaxed, including removing the restriction on the Courts providing water jugs and disposable cups in courtrooms.

From close of filing, **Friday, 4 November 2022**, the Chief Justice has revoked the *FCFCOA Practice Direction – COVID-19 Special Measures*. This document provided for the filing of documents that had not been witnessed, the deferral of fee payments, filing of documents by email, and other COVID-19 measures.

All documents should continue to be filed electronically through the Commonwealth Courts Portal or eLodgment. For documents that cannot be filed electronically through the Commonwealth Courts Portal, they may be lodged for filing by email, by post, or in the registry.

ON 28 JANUARY 2022 THE COURT PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING UPDATE:

[FCFCOA Special Measures Information Notice – COVID-19 Electronic Subpoena Inspection](#)

This Special Measures Information Notice sets out arrangements for the continued operation of subpoena inspections in the Dandenong, Dubbo, Melbourne, Newcastle, Parramatta, Sydney and Wollongong registries during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2021 THE COURT PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING UPDATE:

[Family Law Practice Direction – National COVID-19 List](#)

This Practice Direction applies to urgent or priority family law applications filed in the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia which are filed as a direct result of, or in significant connection to, COVID-19. It expands the fast-tracked list in the Court (the National COVID-19 List) which deals with urgent or priority applications related to COVID-19 on a national basis.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS TRIBUNAL

For further information, visit the AAT's page [Impact of COVID-19 on our services](#).

See also the latest news here: <https://www.aat.gov.au/news>

ON 01 FEBRUARY 2022 THE AAT PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING UPDATE:

[Visiting an AAT registry during COVID-19](#)

31/01/2022

All AAT registries are open to visitors, so you can visit us in person in any of our locations.

While our registries are open, to reduce the risks associated with COVID-19 you may prefer to [contact us](#) online or by telephone.

You can access our services remotely by:

- using our [online services portal](#) to lodge a new application (preferred method of lodgement) or submit a document for any case that has already been lodged with the AAT
- [emailing us](#) about your new or existing application
- [sending a general enquiry](#)
- [providing feedback](#) including compliments, complaints and suggestions.

We are available to answer telephone and email enquiries on weekdays (other than public holidays) from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

Visiting us in person

If you visit an AAT registry, you must follow any public health requirements in place in your state or territory. This may involve wearing a face mask or checking in using a QR code. You will also be asked to follow AAT COVID-safe procedures such as maintaining social distance.

All AAT registries operate from 8.30am to 5.00pm on weekdays (other than public holidays). Visit [our locations](#) to find registry addresses and other details.

If you are visiting us in person, please call ahead on 1800 228 333 to plan your visit.

Find more information at '[Impact of coronavirus \(COVID-19\) on our services](#)' or [contact us](#).

THE AAT'S 'IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON OUR SERVICES' PAGE STATES THE FOLLOWING:

Impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on our services

COVID-19 special measures

Practice directions

The President has issued five special measures practice directions that set out how the AAT will operate while COVID-19 impacts our services. These are in effect from 29 April 2020 for the following divisions:

- [General, Freedom of Information and Veterans' Appeals](#)
- [Migration & Refugee](#)
- [National Disability Insurance Scheme](#)
- [Small Business Taxation and Taxation & Commercial](#)
- [Social Services & Child Support](#)

Guides

- [Practitioner guide to virtual hearings using Microsoft Teams – Migration and Refugee Division](#)
- [Participants guide to ADR processes using Microsoft Teams](#)
- [User guide to video hearings using Microsoft Teams](#)
- [Tutorial video – providing submissions and documents in searchable PDF format](#)
- **COVID-safe declaration**
- [COVID-safe declaration for visitors to the AAT](#)

The AAT is an essential government service. We provide independent merits review of a wide range of administrative decisions made by the Australian Government.

We are implementing COVID-safe protective measures at our registries, but we remain available to deliver services.

If you attend an AAT registry, you will be required to follow public health requirements in your state or territory, which may involve wearing a face mask or checking in using a QR code system. You will also be asked to follow AAT COVID-safe procedures such as maintaining social distance.

While our registries remain open, you may prefer to contact us online or by telephone instead. You can do most of what you need to do with the AAT from your home, office or other location with internet access:

- Use our [online services portal](#) to lodge a new application (preferred method of lodgement) or submit a document for any case that has already been lodged with the AAT
- [Email us](#) about your new or existing application
- [Send a general enquiry](#)
- [Provide feedback](#) including compliments, complaints and suggestions

Visit australia.gov.au for essential COVID-19 information, including government measures and links to State and Territory health advice.

Common questions about temporary changes to our services

Can I go to my local registry to speak with someone about my case?

Our registries are open during our regular business hours (from 8:30am to 5:00pm weekdays, excluding public holidays).

We ask that you consider whether you need to visit us in person or whether you can [contact us](#) another way instead.

If it is necessary to visit us in person, you should call ahead on [1800 228 333](tel:1800228333) to plan your visit.

Should I visit the AAT to submit documents for an existing case?

You can [submit a document](#) online for any case that has already been lodged with the AAT.

If you are unable to submit your documents to us online, by [email](#) or by [post](#), you may visit one of our registries during business hours.

You should call ahead on [1800 228 333](tel:1800228333) to plan your visit.

Should I visit the AAT to submit documents for an existing case?

You can [submit a document](#) online for any case that has already been lodged with the AAT.

If you are unable to submit your documents to us online, by [email](#) or by [post](#), you may visit one of our registries during business hours.

You should call ahead on [1800 228 333](tel:1800228333) to plan your visit.

How will my hearing or conference go ahead if I can't visit in person?

Most of our hearings and conferences are still being conducted remotely by video conference or telephone. In limited circumstances, we are arranging in person hearings where they are required.

If you are required to attend a hearing or conference in person, and are unable to do so, call us on [1800 228 333](tel:1800228333).

How do I lodge my application?

We prefer [online lodgement](#) for new applications. This helps to make sure you meet any time requirements, especially as there may be postal delays during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The way you are able to lodge will differ depending on the type of government decision you want us to review. Find out how your case should be lodged on our [Apply for a review](#) page.

Are video and phone hearings open to the public?

Many AAT hearings are open to the public, even if they are held by video conference or phone.

If you want to observe a hearing but are not one of the parties, you will need to let us know. Read about changes to the way [members of the public attend AAT hearings](#), including how to request to attend a video or phone hearing.

How do I find out when your offices are open again?

Please continue to monitor this website for further news and updates.

FAIR WORK COMMISSION

For further information, visit [the Fair Work Commission's website](#).

ON 6 JUNE 2022, THE FAIR WORK COMMISSION'S COVID-19 PAGE WAS UPDATED WITH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Office closures

Updated 6 June 2022: Counters are open at all our offices.

Overview

We follow the latest government advice to keep people safe when they come to the tribunal or our offices.

From time to time, we may have to make changes at short notice.

We are doing our best to deal with all cases quickly, but some things are taking longer than normal. You may need to wait longer on the phone to speak to us and we may need a little more time to reply to emails.

The pandemic has also had an impact on requests to change [enterprise agreements](#) and [awards](#).

Office closures

Updated 6 June 2022: Counters are open at all our offices.

We encourage you to apply online or email documents to melbourne@fwc.gov.au. You can also send documents to your nearest [Commission office](#).

If you are not sure what to do, you can call us on 1300 799 675.

Coronavirus, vaccinations, and workplace law

We may be able to help if you have:

- a [dispute about JobKeeper](#)
- a [dispute about the COVIDSafe app](#) if you choose not to download or use it.

The **Fair Work Ombudsman** has information about [Coronavirus and Australian workplace laws](#). They can give you advice on topics including:

- [JobKeeper payments](#)
- [pay and sick leave entitlements](#)

- [stand downs from work](#)
- [school closures and taking care of a child](#)
- [other rights and responsibilities at work during the pandemic](#).

The **ATO** manages the [JobMaker hiring credit](#) scheme.

Vaccinations

All employers must minimise the risk of exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace. This is essential even where their employees have been vaccinated.

Information on vaccinations and what employees and employers can (and can't) do, is available from:

- The Fair Work Ombudsman – [COVID-19 vaccinations and the workplace](#)
- Safe Work Australia – general and industry-specific guidance and requirements at [COVID-19 vaccines information](#)
- The Department of Health – [Australia's COVID-19 vaccine rollout](#).

Urgent applications

To deal with the effects of Covid-19, some businesses need to change enterprise agreements or other instruments. If your application to vary an agreement is urgent, email it to COVID19Applications@fwc.gov.au.

Changes to some cases

The pandemic is affecting many different types of case. We will tell you if we change anything about your case.

We hold conciliation and mediation sessions by phone

Some cases have [conciliation](#) or [mediation](#) as part of their process. Instead of meeting in person, you can take part from home or where you work. You and your lawyer or representative can join by phone conference. You don't need to come to our offices.

We hold hearings and conferences by phone or videoconference

Where possible, we are holding [hearings and conferences](#) by phone or videoconference. When we contact you about a case, we will tell you how to take part.

As the restrictions ease, more hearings will be face-to-face. You should always follow the rules on wearing a mask in your state or territory. We may ask you to wear a mask during a face-to-face hearing, except when you are speaking.

Some cases are 'on the papers'

We may not organise a hearing if a Commission Member decides to deal with your case 'on the papers'. This means they will use the written materials you provide. You do not have to give evidence or submission in person.

If this happens, the Member will send you directions. 'Directions' tell you what evidence or submissions you need to give the Member. They use this to make a decision about your case.

We may delay some cases

It is not always suitable to hold a case by phone, videoconference or on the papers. We will postpone these cases until it is safe for them to take place face-to-face.

We ask for evidence and submissions by email

If we ask you for submissions or evidence (such as witness statements), please email them. The contact details are on the information we sent you about your hearing or conference. You can also contact us if you have any questions.

Some requirements for statutory declarations are different

You only need to fill out a [statutory declaration](#) if you are applying for a WHS entry permit. This is a rule in the *Work, Health and Safety Act 2011*, which has not changed.

For all other applications, you need to submit a declaration instead. You must sign the declaration before you send it to us. You do not need a witness to sign it and you no longer need to fill out a statutory declaration.

Part of the appeals process has changed

When you apply for permission to appeal, you need to [create an appeal book](#). You should email this instead of sending a printed copy. Send the appeal book to melbourne@fwc.gov.au. The maximum email size is 10Mb.

COPYRIGHT TRIBUNAL OF AUSTRALIA

For further information, visit [the Copyright Tribunal's website](#).

THE TRIBUNAL RELEASED THE FOLLOWING COVID-19 NOTICE ON 18 MARCH 2020:

Filing of documents

At a registry

The Copyright Tribunal relies upon the registries of the Federal Court of Australia in relation to the over the counter filing of documents. Persons wishing to file documents in this manner should therefore look to notices or advice on the [Federal Court of Australia website](#) in relation to when a registry in a particular State is open.

Electronic filing

In the event of any registry closure, and for those who wish in any event to file electronically, a document may be filed via the following email address: query@fedcourt.gov.au. This email address will be monitored for any filings (with an updated email address to be provided in due course).

General Inquiries

General inquiries concerning the Tribunal should continue to be directed to the telephone numbers for the [Federal Court of Australia Registry](#) in the State or Territory concerned, according to any advice on the court's website.