

Tax Office litigation website

The Tax Office has established a litigation webpage which will list information about significant court and tribunal decisions once they are finalised.

The statements will identify the case and its references and will provide a brief statement of facts, the decision, and the Tax Office's view of that decision. Significant cases from across the full range of Commonwealth taxes will be included.

The litigation webpage will alert the community if any of the Tax Office's public rulings and determinations need to be reviewed or amended as a result of the decision. These will be hyperlinked with notations until the ruling or determination is finally reviewed.

The page can be accessed from the Tax Office website at www.ato.gov.au, via this pathway:

Rulings policies & law > Tax related case law > Tax Office response to recent decisions

The litigation webpage can also be accessed via this direct link: <http://www.ato.gov.au/taxprofessionals/pathway.asp?pc=001/005/060&mfp=001&mnu=36380>

The following cases are currently available from the

website:

- * Commissioner of Taxation v A Taxpayer - Outlines the Tax Office's response to this case.
- * Commissioner of Taxation v Neil Milne - Outlines the Tax Office's response to this case.
- * Commissioner of Taxation v Queensland Trading & Holding Co Ltd - Outlines the Tax Office's response to this case.
- * FCT V DB Reef Funds Management Ltd - Outlines the Tax Office's response to this case.
- * Federal Commissioner of Taxation v Citylink Melbourne Limited - Outlines the Tax Office's response to this case.
- * Pearson v. Commissioner of Taxation - Outlines the Tax Office's response to this case.
- * Toyama Pty Ltd v Landmark Building Developments Pty Ltd - Outlines the Tax Office's response to this case.
- * Westley Nominees Pty Ltd v. Coles Supermarkets Australia Pty Ltd - Outlines the Tax Office's response to this case.

DCLS and pro bono assistance

Since its beginning in 1992, Darwin Community Legal Service and its clients have benefitted from pro bono assistance provided by the legal profession, both local and interstate.

Firstly, there are the 50 plus lawyers and lawyers-to-be who volunteer at our three free legal advice sessions weekly. Solicitors, barristers and law students give up an evening or morning once every month or so to provide legal advice to people who might not otherwise have access to legal assistance. We also have a number of volunteers from non-legal backgrounds who provide essential assistance including co-ordination of advice clinics, contributing to policy responses, working on DCLS projects and events.

Then there are the solicitors and barristers who assist our clients at no cost. A number of barristers have assisted us with specific casework over the year and the readiness of members of the Bar to take a role in our casework strengthens our ability to deliver accessible justice to our clients.

Recent casework undertaken at no cost for DCLS clients has included:

- Assistance for a community housing provider
- Assistance in complex discrimination matters

As well as facilitating legal assistance for individuals and organisations, we have also received non-legal assistance from the legal profession.

Access to meeting rooms, library and administrative resources is of great benefit to an underfunded service like DCLS.

We worked with an interstate law firm to produce a flash four-page full colour brochure outlining the history and achievements of DCLS. It was a pleasure to work with the firm's graphic design unit to prepare the brochure, and the resultant high quality brochure was useful in soliciting donations and support for the organisation.

We acknowledge the legal profession in Darwin and across the NT has always been generous in its provision of pro bono legal services. We also support the ongoing development of a pro bono program in the NT and look forward to working with the Law Society and the local profession on these issues in the future.