



MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC
Attorney General
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INCREASE IN DAMAGES FOR VICTIMS OF DISCRIMINATION

The Administrative Decisions Tribunal will soon be able to award victims of unlawful discrimination up to \$100,000 in compensation, NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos announced today.

Mr Hatzistergos said amendments to the *Administrative Decisions Tribunal Act 1997* to more than double the current compensation cap of \$40,000 had passed through NSW Parliament.

“If the Tribunal finds someone has suffered from discrimination, such as on the basis of gender, sexuality, disability or race, up to \$100,000 in compensation could be awarded,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

“This is a significant increase in the maximum amount of compensation that the Tribunal can award to victims.

“It will allow the Tribunal to make compensation payments that better reflect the seriousness of the consequences of discrimination.

“It will also bring NSW more in line with damages available in other jurisdictions and reinforce the importance of the ADT’s jurisdiction in ensuring that discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated in NSW.”

Other reforms include transferring the power to grant exemptions from the operation of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977* from the Attorney General to the President of the Anti-Discrimination Board.

A recent example was a Western Sydney bus company which received an exemption from the Act in order to advertise for female bus drivers only.

In addition, a range of miscellaneous amendments were made in relation to the operation, functions and constitution of the Administrative Decisions Tribunal to ensure it remains an independent, accessible and cost-effective forum for the people of NSW.