

Media Release: Race Discrimination leads as highest ground for complaint

Thursday, 1 November 2018

Discrimination complaints relating to race have emerged as the highest level of complaint received by the Northern Territory Anti-Discrimination Commission this year (2017-18).

NT Anti-Discrimination Commissioner Sally Sievers said that this was a return to what had been the case for all but the last two years of the Commission's history and is consistent with what we are told when we are in the community. The day to day discrimination experienced by Aboriginal people and people in the multicultural community particularly in the area of employment continues to be prevalent and pervasive.

Race discrimination has always been the Commission's highest area for the phone and email enquiries we receive.

Disability discrimination, which was the number one area of complaint in the preceding two years has fallen this year, possibly due to disability advocates and support organisations being focused on adapting to the NDIS rollout.

The focus on NDIS has meant that other areas for people living with a disability where ongoing advocacy is necessary such as access to public spaces, inclusion at work and in the broader society miss out. There is a real need for more and better resourced advocacy for people with disability.

The Anti-Discrimination Commission works hard to resolve matters by conciliation and in a timely manner. This year 98% of the complaints finalised were finalised within 6 months.

The Anti-Discrimination Commission also had a big year with its Education & Training program a program that focuses on work places, which is still the highest area of complaint. We are also looking to design programs to assist those providing goods

and services to understand their obligation to provide goods and service fairly this will include unconscious bias training,

The Northern Territory Anti-Discrimination Commission's Annual Report 2017 – 18 was deemed tabled in Parliament yesterday.

Media enquiries: Sally Sievers - 89991444