

**ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW TRIBUNAL
MOOT COMPETITION
2026**

INFORMATION PACKAGE

INTRODUCTION

The Administrative Review Tribunal Moot Competition registrations are open for 2026. Students enrolled in a Bachelor of Laws or Juris Doctor degree at any Australian university are invited to register in the competition. Teams must include 2 team members who act as Senior Counsel and Junior Counsel and may also include a third team member who can provide assistance but will not be permitted to speak during the moot.

The moots involve administrative law issues based on fact scenarios drawn from a variety of the Tribunal's jurisdictional Areas.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW TRIBUNAL – OVERVIEW

The Tribunal is an independent body that reviews administrative decisions made by Australian Government ministers, departments and agencies. The Tribunal conducts merits review which involves considering afresh the facts, law and policy relating to the decision under review. The Tribunal determines what it considers to be the correct or preferable decision on the material before it and may affirm, vary or set aside the decision under review.

The Tribunal does not have any inherent review powers. The entirety of the Tribunal's jurisdiction is conferred by Acts and legislative instruments. There are over 400 pieces of legislation that confer jurisdiction on the Tribunal.

You can access the *Administrative Review Tribunal Act 2024* (Cth), the primary Act that governs how the Tribunal operates, [here](#).

It is advisable to observe a Tribunal hearing before the competition starts to better understand the role of advocates in the merits review setting. Lists of the hearings that are taking place on any day in the Tribunal are published online at [Daily listings](#). Competitors should seek to attend cases listed as 'Hearings' or 'Resumed Hearings'.

Many hearings at the Tribunal are conducted by video using Microsoft Teams. If you want to attend a hearing marked as taking place by video, you will need to contact the relevant registry by email before 8:00 am on the day of the hearing telling them your name, contact telephone number, the file number of the case you want to attend, and that you want to join by video. Please see our website for further details on who to contact and how: [Observing Tribunal hearings](#).

Competitors should avoid hearings where a party is identified by a four-letter pseudonym (e.g. 'BCDF') as these hearings, as well as some others, are generally held in private. You will not be able to observe these hearings.

CONDUCT OF THE MOOT

The moots are abridged versions of Tribunal hearings. One week before each moot round, teams will be provided with a fact scenario. For the purpose of the moot, teams can assume that evidence has already been given in relation to the facts set out in the scenario.

Written Submissions

Written submissions are due by 12pm (AEST) on the day before each moot is to be held.

Written submissions should outline the parties' main arguments, citing the law upon which they rely. It is not necessary to include an outline of the facts. For guidance on writing written submissions, the Moot Competition Committee recommends competitors read the following article:

A H Baida, *'Writing a Better Brief: The Civil Appeals Style Manual of the Office of the Maryland Attorney General'*, (2001) 3 J App Prac & Process 685

For additional requirements in relation to the content and format of written submissions, please refer to the 2026 Administrative Review Tribunal Moot Competition Rules for further information about the competition.

The Moot

Each moot will last approximately 1.5 – 2 hours. It will be conducted by MS Teams video or in exceptional cases may be accommodated in person at a Tribunal Registry.

The hearing attendant will open the virtual hearing room approximately 15 minutes prior to the moot. The hearing attendant will assist team members and spectators to be admitted, introduce the Tribunal and act as a timekeeper. Team members should address any procedural questions to the hearing attendant before the moot commences.

The moots will be adjudicated by members of the Tribunal. The member will be introduced at the commencement of each moot by the hearing attendant.

The moot involves each team presenting closing submissions (30 minutes for the Applicant team and 40 minutes for the Respondent team) and the Applicant team then presenting submissions in reply (10 minutes).

For the Applicant's closing submissions, Senior Counsel and Junior Counsel each have 15 minutes. The hearing attendant will sound one bell after 10 minutes of each speaker's submissions, 2 bells at 14 minutes and continuous rings after 15 minutes.

For the Respondent's closing submissions, Senior Counsel and Junior Counsel each have 20 minutes. The hearing attendant will sound one bell after 15 minutes of each speaker's submissions, 2 bells at 19 minutes and continuous rings after 20 minutes.

For the Applicant's submissions in reply, Senior Counsel has 10 minutes. The hearing attendant will sound one bell after 7 minutes, 2 bells at 9 minutes and continuous rings after 10 minutes.

STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

The competition consists of 4 rounds in total.

All teams participate in the first round of the competition. This preliminary round will be conducted by video with the Tribunal constituted by one member of the Tribunal.

Following the outcome of the preliminary rounds, 8 teams will enter the national finals rounds. Eight teams will compete in the quarter-finals, 4 teams in the semi-finals and 2 teams in the Grand Final. The Grand Final will be adjudicated by the President or a Deputy President of the Tribunal presiding with either 2 other members of the

Tribunal sitting as the Guidance and Appeals Panel. More information about the Guidance and Appeals Panel can be found [here](#).

The draft timetable for the competition is set out on the next page. This may vary depending upon the number of teams that register.

If the Grand Final is to be held in person, the Tribunal will provide a travel and accommodation allowance where necessary to enable teams to participate in the Grand Final.

The winning team and runner-up team will be awarded prizes. The name of the winning team will be inscribed on the Tribunal's National Mooting Competition Shield.

If you have any questions, please contact moot@art.gov.au.

2026 MOOT TIMETABLE – dates subject to change

Registrations open	Wednesday, 29 July 2026
Registrations close	Friday, 21 August 2026
Information session for competitors	Friday, 28 August 2026

Preliminary Round 1	7-11 September 2026
Quarter-Finals draw and documents released	Friday, 18 September 2026
Quarter-Finals – Submissions Due	12pm (midday) the day before the scheduled moot hearing
Quarter-Finals	28-September 2026 – 1 October 2026
Semi-Finals draw and documents released	Friday, 2 October 2026
Semi-Finals – Submissions Due	12pm (midday) the day before the scheduled moot hearing
Semi-Finals	12-15 October 2026
Grand Final draw and documents released	Friday, 16 October 2026
Grand Final – Submissions Due	12pm (midday) on 22 October 2026
Grand Final	Friday, 23 October 2026.