



Caseload Priorities 2026–27

How we are prioritising caseloads in 2026–27

This document outlines the Administrative Review Tribunal's approach to managing our caseload and resource allocation in 2026–27.

In line with our statutory objective, the Tribunal is committed to providing an accessible, fair and efficient review process that puts our users first.

As demand for our services continues to exceed the resources we have available, it is necessary for us to prioritise certain areas of our work to ensure we direct our people to where they can have the greatest impact.

These priorities do not replace the Tribunal's established processes for requesting a review to be expedited as set out in the *Administrative Review Tribunal (Common Procedures) Practice Direction 2026*.

Resourcing and caseload management

In 2026–27, the Tribunal is funded to finalise 74,942 applications.

The Tribunal continues to manage a high number of applications being lodged across several jurisdictional areas, adding to an unprecedented number of cases on hand.

The principles outlined in this document will guide decisions about the allocation of member resources we have available and the management of the Tribunal's caseload throughout 2026–27.

Priority caseloads

Based on these principles, the Tribunal has identified the following priorities for 2026–27 (in no particular order):

Caseload	Reason for priority
Character-related visa refusal and cancellation reviews	Statutory requirements, complexity and the need for timely review of remitted matters.
Centrelink first reviews	Many applicants rely on government payments for subsistence and may be significantly affected by delays.
Child support first reviews	Outcomes directly affect children and families.
NDIS access reviews	Many applicants are vulnerable and rely on timely decisions regarding access to supports.

The Tribunal's aim is to, wherever possible, allocate sufficient resources to achieve the number of cases we are funded to finalise in these priority areas.

Secondary priority caseloads

Additional resources will also be directed towards the following caseloads (in no particular order):

Caseload	Reason for priority
Family and partner visa reviews	These cases are often older and can have significant impacts on families and children.
Working, skilled and investment visa reviews	Delays can affect Australian businesses and the economy.
Visitor visa reviews	Delays may have significant financial consequences for applicants.

While these caseloads have been identified as priorities, resource constraints may limit the Tribunal's ability to achieve the number of cases we are funded to finalise across all these areas.

To help prevent a build-up of older cases and support their timely resolution, current resourcing levels have been maintained across many of our other caseloads, including Taxation, Regulatory and Discipline, and Veterans' and Workers' Compensation reviews.

Study visa caseload



The Tribunal continues to experience very high volumes of reviews of study visa decisions. To address this growing caseload, study visa cases will be allocated across our membership more broadly. This initiative is expected to significantly increase study visa finalisations and assist in managing the growing number of applications on hand.

Reducing aged cases



The Tribunal has also committed to reducing older migration and protection matters. In 2026–27, resources will continue to be directed towards finalising migration and protection applications that form part of the Tribunal's backlog reduction program.

This work will support the ongoing reduction of aged matters and improve timeliness for our users.

Monitoring and review



Performance against these priorities will be monitored throughout 2026–27 to ensure we remain responsive to changes in demand, emerging caseload pressures and operational requirements. A formal review of the priorities will be undertaken during the financial year.