

pay for interpreters where applicants could not easily do so themselves. In practice, the Tribunal invariably paid for interpreters for unrepresented applicants and sometimes did so for represented applicants.

As a result of the review the Tribunal has decided that, from 1 July 1997, it will book and pay for interpreters for all clients who need one, irrespective of whether or not they are represented.

### Community Education Kit

The Tribunal has produced an "Information kit & Training package" for advocates and community workers. This package was compiled by Ms Loula Rodopoulos, a Tribunal Member based in Melbourne, and Mr Peter Kent, Manager Corporate Support.

The package covers the Administrative Appeal Tribunal's processes, as well as those of the Social Security Appeals Tribunal, the Veterans' Review Board, the Immigration Review Tribunal, the Refugee Review Tribunal and the Ombudsman.

The package was prepared in loose leaf format so that it can accommodate future changes in the structure of the Commonwealth administrative review system. The package was sent to approximately 150 peak bodies including community legal centres, welfare rights centres, disability, ethnic, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, women's and veterans' organisations and other advocates.

### Other Recent Access Initiatives

#### *Additional information sheet for overseas applicants*

A number of people lodge their applications for review of a government decision while they are overseas, or they need to go overseas while their case is processed. The procedures followed in these cases are different because conferences and hearings cannot be held. The

current general information leaflets do not provide sufficient information to these applicants. Consequently the Tribunal has produced an "Additional information sheet for overseas applicants" which is available in English, Greek, Turkish, Serbian, Croatian and Italian.

#### *Audio tapes*

The Tribunal's series of five information pamphlets have been recorded on tapes for people with a visual impairment. The tapes have been distributed to disability organisations around Australia.

#### *Large print leaflets*

The Tribunal's new plain English information pamphlets are also available in large print (18 point) and in an easy-to-read font for people with a visual disability.

#### *Video tapes*

The Tribunal's video "Getting Decisions Right" was recently subtitled in an additional four languages: Greek, Turkish, Serbian and Italian. The video is also subtitled in English for people with hearing difficulties.

### AAT decisions

**Continued payments of AUSTUDY allowance through administrative error after applicant had advised Department that he was ceasing full-time study – applicant unsuccessful in attempting to have payments stopped – whether applicant received payments in good faith – Prince and Secretary, Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs (No N95/1588 – decision (11753) 7 April 1997)**

During 1993, the applicant had been studying full-time and receiving AUSTUDY payments. At the end of 1993 he was advised that he would not be permitted to continue his course. He attended the Student Assistance Centre within a few days of receiving this advice, informed them of the advice he had received, completed a form and was advised that the