

DENIAL OF NATURAL JUSTICE

The Australian Justice Tribunal

LACK OF MONEY

Category One – No money to initiate or defend

If you have ever been aggrieved in any way you will have a deep desire to begin legal proceedings against the offender. But it costs money to act as a Plaintiff or an Applicant in Federal Courts; and an estimated half a million (500,000) people annually who cannot afford legal assistance need to either throw themselves on the mercy of Organisations who specialise in pro bono (free) legal representation or resign themselves to the bitterness that can destroy their lives.

And on the subject of bitterness, there can be no greater pain than that which is inflicted by a Plaintiff or Applicant who unjustly drags you into a Court forcing you to defend yourself when you do not know how and you do not have the money to fight.

Self-representation

But if pro bono legal representation is not available then self-representation is always an alternative. And The Australian Justice Tribunal is just one of the Organisations who will help quide you through the Court process.

Of course, funds providing, we would then take you off the self-representation track and retain legal representation to hopefully take you through to a desired outcome.

The Other 200,000 plus

Regrettably, of the 500,000 needing pro bono legal assistance annually there are over 200,000 Australians each year who are denied natural justice solely on the grounds that pro bono legal representation or self-representation advice could not be offered; and in some instances, they were not aware that such services existed.

Category Two – Middle Australians (not rich enough, not poor enough)

The worst position an Australian can be in is to have a good job and a partner who also produces income. Because with that will invariably come young children, a healthy mortgage, two cars of whatever vintage, and an inability to squeeze out the equity that may lie in their home simply because there is too little equity or both incomes are just making ends meet without the extra financial burden of higher mortgage repayments.

And to make things worse, there is a high probability that these middle Australians may run a small business which is under unfair attack from a competitor or suppliers, or they may be caught up in separation or divorce proceedings, or face any one of hundreds of legal matters ranging from conflict over leasing agreements to contesting the Will of a deceased family member. Remember, the premise is that 1.7 million Australians annually will encounter a problem requiring legal advice and possible legal representation.

Without legal representation it is middle Australia who pay a very dear price. Everything they have worked for and built will be on the line. Many are only just hanging in there as it is, without the upset of litigation.

Legal Aid

And if we think that Legal Aid wants to know this category of Australians then we must rethink because on the surface they do not fit the criteria needed to attract free legal assistance. They have their own home and two incomes in spite of the fact that overheads are almost strangling them.

Naturally, massive funding cuts to Legal Aid Australia-wide has meant that even their assistance to Family Law litigants and those embroiled in criminal matters has been greatly reduced.

Again, it falls back to The Australian Justice Tribunal and its contemporaries to offer these Australians pro bono legal assistance.

Category Three – Financially exhausted through Legal Abuse

Essentially, this category of Australians started out by retaining Law Firms to either institute legal proceedings against offenders (defendants) or to represent them as defendants when they have come under attack.

And normally they are given the legal services they expect. But there are many circumstances where the litigation becomes unnecessarily protracted and finances are depleted long before justice has been granted or at least their expectation of it.

Once again, litigants who have been taken to the cleaners and find themselves dumped by their legal representatives face three options. And they are:

- 1. Try to get through the Court system by representing themselves without a lawyer (i.e. self-representation);
- 2. Apply for pro bono legal representation or self-representation assistance from The Australian Justice Tribunal or its contemporaries; or
- 3. Be overcome by the feelings of helplessness only to suffer depression and possible suicide.

But let's have a look at the core legal abuses many Australians are subjected to by unscrupulous Lawyers and cooperative Judges (See link below):

<u>LEGAL ABUSE</u> – www.theajt.org.au/Legal_Abuse.pdf