



Media Release: Aboriginal Territorians speak up about discrimination
Anti-Discrimination Commissioner – Sally Sievers

An increase of 91% complaints from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in 2019-20.

Complaints were about:

- employers and service providers;
- included race, failing to accommodate special needs, disability, gender and age;
- and many were received from outside the Darwin region.

NT Anti-Discrimination Commissioner Sally Sievers said:

“You don’t have to talk to many Aboriginal people in our community to know the level of discrimination is high.”

The increase reflects an increase in reporting, rather than an increase in discrimination.

Ms Sievers says:

We see an increase in reporting as a really big positive. It is a product of work by the Commission with stakeholders to increase knowledge of rights.

Increased funding for the Commission is needed to address the needs of Aboriginal Territorians, especially those outside the Darwin region.”

Also high were sexual harassment complaints from Territory women. Many women were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and lived outside of Darwin.

The most common complaint made to the Commission was Disability discrimination. The complaints were often about mental health discrimination. The complaints reveal stereotypes about mental illness persist in the Territory.

The Northern Territory Anti-Discrimination Commission Annual Report 2019-20 was deemed tabled in Parliament on 22nd October 2020.

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