



Tuesday, 26 September 2006

## **New AIRC headquarters opens**

The Australian Industrial Relations Commission today opened its new, national headquarters at 11 Exhibition Street, Melbourne.

Occupying five floors of a recently constructed corporate tower, the Commission's new premises feature progressive design and new technology aimed at best assisting its users and the public.

Key features include:

- 12 hearing and eight conference rooms over two floors;
- an advanced videoconferencing system;
- electronic hearings lists in the lower ground public lobby and outside hearing and conference rooms;
- conference rooms located adjacent to hearing rooms allowing parties to easily move into private conference without having to re-enter public zones; and
- public spaces around the perimeter of the building providing the public and Commission users with access to city views and natural light through full-height windows.

AIRC President, Justice Geoffrey Giudice, said the design of the 11 Exhibition Street complex reflected the Commission's commitment to providing modern dispute resolution services.

'When compared with the facilities of labour dispute resolution bodies throughout the world, this building, together with the related information technology infrastructure, is unsurpassed,' he said.

'It provides a contemporary, professional platform for the members of Commission to carry out the work of assisting parties to resolve the range of workplace disputes which the Commission deals with.'

The 11 Exhibition Street building is sited just one city block from the Commission's previous location at 80 Collins Street, Melbourne, the building formerly known as Nauru House.

Since the passage of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act in 1904 the Commission, its predecessors, and the Registry have been headquartered in Melbourne in only a handful of premises. Research to date indicates the previous locations included:

- shared accommodation with the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department at 61 Spring Street (Registry only) from 1905 for several years;
- 468 Lonsdale Street (also known as Rostella House), circa 1920 to 1959;
- 451 Little Bourke Street, (also known as 451 Law Courts Place) between 1959 and 1979; and
- Nauru House, 80 Collins Street, December 1979 to September 2006.

**Further information:**

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