



Entry to Pubs is Everyone's Right

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities still bear the brunt of race discrimination" the President of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board, Stepan Kerkyasharian, said today.

"Anti-Discrimination Board statistics tell a sorry story of race discrimination, particularly in relation to accommodation and the provision of goods and services", Mr Kerkyasharian added.

In NSW in 2008-2009, a quarter of the complaints of race discrimination in accommodation, and one in ten of the complaints in relation to the provision of goods and services, came from Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders, according to annual statistics compiled by the Anti-Discrimination Board.

"The Anti-Discrimination Board has an active Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Outreach Team. The stories they hear of race discrimination against Indigenous communities are still very disappointing to me" the President stated. "In particular, I am dismayed to hear stories in relation to pubs and hotels. Pubs are places for everyone in the community to meet, so discriminating at the door is not acceptable", the President added.

Race discrimination complaints may be made to the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board, where they may be investigated and conciliated. Some cases then go to the Equal Opportunity Division of the Administrative Decisions Tribunal, which can order up to \$100,000 in compensation.

An unlawful act of race discrimination can also lead to a hotelier losing the hotelier's licence. Hoteliers can also be held responsible for discrimination by staff or security guards.

Serious racial vilification can lead to a maximum of 6 months in jail or a fine of \$11,000.

The Anti-Discrimination Board's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Outreach Service can provide advice and assistance in relation to race discrimination against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Anti-Discrimination Board enquiry line is 1800 670 812. The website is www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/adb.

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