

## Clear and Audible Announcements on Rail Services

IMF provided Mr Graeme Innes with financial assistance in relation to Mr Innes' successful proceedings against NSW Rail Corporation (RailCorp). This is the second pro-bono opportunity IMF has identified with the assistance of the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC).

Mr Innes is the Commonwealth Disability Commissioner and is blind. He travels regularly on trains run by RailCorp and relies on clear, audible announcements of the next station in its services. Mr Innes found that in a given period for approximately 20% of train journeys taken by him no clear audible announcements of next stations were made.

After raising his concerns with RailCorp and the Minister for Transport, Mr Innes made 36 complaints to the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) and then commenced proceedings under the AHRC Act.

The Federal Magistrates Court found that RailCorp's action amounted to indirect discrimination; that RailCorp had failed to make reasonable adjustments which enabled Mr Innes to know his whereabouts on the rail network and awarded Mr Innes \$10,000 in compensation.

A link to the Court's decision is below:

<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/cth/FMCA/2013/36.html>