

Victorian Law Reform Commissioner (V.L.R.C.) :

The V.L.R.C.'s working paper on rape produced several suggestions which are now under study in preparation for the report.

Victorian Statute Law Revision Committee (V.S.L.R.C.) :

According to a report in "The Age" the retiring Attorney-General, Mr. Wilcox, Q.C. stated that the V.S.L.R.C. would be asked to consider the development of a tort of invasion of privacy and the protection of rights of citizens against the actions of government (Age, 16 March 1976).

Current matters before the Committee are :-

- * Vagrancy (Amendment) Bill 1974.
- * Legal Infancy : including not only contracts and property but the whole question of full legal capacity.
- * Criminal Law : Use of Motor Cars : Forfeiture of motor car in certain offences.
- * Protection of Animals Act 1966 (Rodeos, destruction of unwanted animals, vivisection, whips in horse racing, traps and cages and compounds for birds and animals).
- * Imperial Acts Application Act 1922 : Following the report of Mrs. Kewley.
- * The Constitution Act 1975 : To consider suggestions made by M.P.s during a debate on the Act in 1975.

Western Australian Law Reform Commission (W.A.L.R.C.) :

Following are the active projects in the W.A.L.R.C. :-

- * Compensation for Persons detained in custody and subsequently acquitted.
First draft of the W.P. is under active study. Due for release July 1976.
- * Compensation for new street alignment : Informal report to the Minister.
- * Documents : Official Attestation of : W.P. due in approx. six months.
- * Judgment debts. This will not be treated by way of working paper. Informal advice will be given to the government.
- * Justices Act Review. Report due late 1976.
- * Strata Titles : W.P. due late 1976.
- * Trusts :W.P. on insolvent deceased estates due July 1976. Project being divided into parts.
- * Unclaimed Money : W.P. presently before W.A.L.R.C. To be issued shortly.
- * Administration Bonds and Sureties. Report recently submitted and will be presented to Parliament April 1976.
- * Privilege for Journalists in Court Proceedings : W.P. due June 1976.
- * Suitors Fund Act :Report on Part A (Civil Procedure) already submitted.
Report on Part B (Criminal Procedure) about to be submitted, 1976.
- * Court Structure : Project on Justices Act and Local Courts Act being studied in tandem with new project to consider a Small Debts Court in W.A.

New References

The following are the new references received since the last "Reform":-

A.L.R.C.	4 : Alcohol, Drugs & Driving. Reform of the breathalyzer laws of the A.C.T. For report by 1 July 1976. W.P. issued February 1976.
A.C.T.L.R.C.	Nil
N.S.W.L.R.C.	Nil
P.N.G.L.R.C.	Adultery laws. Children's Court. Lower Court structure and procedures.
Q.L.R.C.	Nil
S.A.C.L.R.C.	Special report on rape and other sexual offences.
S.A.L.R.C.	Nil

Tas.L.R.C.	Criminal Procedure : Prohibition of Publishing of names (Jan.1976) Fisheries : Forfeiture of things used in unlawful catching (Feb.1976) Rehabilitation of Offenders (January 1976) Vagrancy and Drinking Offences : decriminalisation (March 1976)
V.C.J.C.	Nil
V.L.R.C.	Nil
V.S.L.R.C.	Proposed general reference on privacy promised.
W.A.L.R.C.	Small Debts Court : the possibility of establishing a Small Debts Court or expanding the Small Claims Tribunal.

All of the above details concerning the current work and new references of Australian agencies are in accordance with the latest information received by the ALRC as at March 1976.

Library News

Editor : R.Jordan (A.L.R.C.)

Federal Acts: With the publication of Volume 12 of the Acts of the Australian Parliament 1901-1973, the latest bound reprint of the Commonwealth Acts is now complete. The speed at which the Attorney-General's Department has been able to publish the set of Acts proves just what computers and determination can do to ensure access to the law. A general index to the statutes has been compiled by B.M.Wicks, LL.B., A.L.A.A. Titled "Subject Index to the Acts of the Australian Parliament", the 128 page index costs \$6.00 (+ 48c postage), Libra Books, Box 1901, Canberra, 2601.

Keeping up to date on Law Reform: As from January 1976 Australian Current Law (issued by Butterworths) will be listing all new publications of law reform agencies at the end of the legislation section. This service should prove valuable in drawing attention to all recent Australian law reform publications.

Tasmanian Statutes and Cases: Two reference publications relating to Tasmanian Law have recently been issued by the Law Society. They are - Tasmanian Legal Information Guide: In March 1976 the Law Society of Tasmania intends to publish the Guide which will contain current information on Tasmanian law and legal activities including cases and articles. Available C/- The Law Society of Tasmania, Public Buildings, Franklin Square, Hobart). Tasmanian Supreme Court Judgments 1960-1972: This Digest is a guide to cases decided, whether reported or not, between 1960-72. Supplements will be produced for the Digest which has been prepared by Michael Lillas. Price \$20.00 from the Law Book Co. Ltd.

Comparative Law : European Codes Translated: A major improvement in availability of English translations is Sweet & Maxwell's "American Series of Foreign Penal Codes". The Council of Europe has also recently issued "Bibliography of Translations of Codes and Other Laws of Private Law" : Available Morgan-Grampian Ltd., Calderwood Street, London.

Personalia

The Hon. D.S. Thomson, M.C., E.D., M.P. :

The new Minister of Justice and Secretary of the Law Reform Council in New Zealand is the Hon. David Spence Thomson. Before the recent elections, the posts of Attorney-General and Minister of Justice were combined. The positions have now been split again and Mr. Thomson takes over ministerial responsibility for law reform. First elected to the Parliament in 1963, he became Minister of Defence in 1966 and thereafter held a number of portfolios. Following the recent election, Mr. Thomson became Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on legislation. He is a dairy farmer and is married with one son and daughter. During War service he was awarded the Military Cross with Efficiency Decoration and Bar. He retired from military service in 1959 with the rank of Brigadier.

The Hon. Mr. Justice E.P. Hartt :

The Chairman of the Law Reform Commission of Canada, the Hon. Mr. Justice E.Patrick Hartt, completes his five year commission at the end of March 1976. He will be returning to judicial duties as a member of the Supreme Court of Ontario. Aged 49, Hartt J. specialised in criminal law in Toronto before being appointed to the Supreme Court. He was a member of that Court for a little more than four years when called to be the first Chairman of the national Canadian Commission. Canadian Justice Minister Turner described him as "the finest, most progressive of the younger judges with all the human qualities needed to make a profound examination of our federal laws".