

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

- *Adoption of Children : Reference by Vic. A.G. re restriction of information concerning adopted children and availability of original birth certificate to adopted child. Submissions being sought.
- *Statute Law Revision Bill 1976 : Machinery legislation. Report due early 1977.

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

In addition to the active projects listed [1976] *Reform* 78:

- * Privacy : Joint meeting with A.L.R.C. held 9 December 1976. Procedures for avoiding duplication worked out.
- * Working papers and reports have been issued. See *New Reports on Law Reform*.
- * New references have been received. See *New References*.

New References

The following are the new references received since the last *Reform* in October 1976:

- Interstate Corporate Affairs Commission : Reference to Professor Harding by Ministerial Council re Insider Trading.
- N.S.W. Cttee : Harsh and Unconscionable Contracts (Prof. Peden, already reported).
- N.S.W. Royal Comm : N.S.W. Prisons (Mr. Justice Nagle, Commr.)
- P.N.G.L.R.C. : Compensation for Accidents : No Fault Liability and Motor Vehicle Accidents.
- Q.L.R.C. : Crown Proceedings : Repeal and Replacement of Existing Legislation.
- Qld. Comm. of Inquiry (Lucas J., Chairman) : Criminal Law and Investigation including police powers of investigation, interrogation, search, seizure and arrest.
- S.A. Royal Comm : Drugs (Prof. Sackville, Chairman)
- S.A. Royal Comm : Mental Health (Bright J., Chairman). Legal rights of the mentally ill.
- Tas. L.R.C. : Contracts : Exclusion Clauses and Implied Obligations in Contracts for Goods and Services.
 - : Disposal of Uncollected Goods and Found Goods.
 - : Landlord and Tenant : Residential Tenancies.
- V.S.L.R.C. : Constitution : Offices of Profit under the Crown.
 - : Constitution : Voting Rights for Prisoners.
 - : Adoption of Children (Access to Origins) : see above, this page.
 - : Statute Law Revision.
- W.A.L.R.C. : Trusts and Administration of Estate : Recognition of Interstate and Foreign Grants of Probate and Administration
 - : 69 : Criminal Proceedings and Mental Disorder. Criteria to Recognise Mental Disorder in Criminal Law : Indeterminate Sentences : Exchange of Medical Reports and Procedure.

Obituary

The Hon. Sir Kenneth Manning

The death occurred in Sydney on 11 August 1976 of Sir Kenneth Manning, the first Chairman of the N.S.W.L.R.C. Born in 1907 he was admitted to the Bar in 1940 and took silk in 1953. He was a leader in bankruptcy and commercial law when appointed to the New South Wales Supreme Court in 1955. When the N.S.W.L.R.C. was established in 1966 he was its first Chairman. His powerful personality still speaks from the Reports of that Commission. The first *Annual Report* expresses his practical wisdom but his desire to see something more than mere "functional change". "Sound law reform", he declared, "can be based only on research that is as concerned with sociological fact as it is with doctrinal fact. Time and cost are relative factors and are meaningful only in terms of the quality of the product". In a life full of achievements and distinctions, Manning J.A. would surely have ranked high his Chairmanship of the N.S.W. Commission from 1966 until 1969. He was appointed a Judge of Appeal in N.S.W. on 7 October 1969, and retired from the Supreme Court in 1973 because of ill health.