

Australia to distribute publicity concerning the danger of mixing alcohol with medicinal drugs. Valium and even aspirin can have a powerful effect on driving in combination with alcohol. Seventy percent of drugs now on the market were not available 15 years ago when half Australia's doctors were being trained. The A.L.R.C. report urged :

"continuing education of the public and of the medical and pharmaceutical professions concerning the effects of drugs on driving, particularly drugs prescribed by medical practitioners and supplied over the counter".

Fortunately, a large campaign has now begun. This is just another case to prove that law reform "on the ground" often goes beyond mere legislation. Community awareness and public education may be more important than adding to the flood of legislation.

N.S.W.L.R.C. Legal Profession Reference

The New South Wales Law Reform Commission is putting emphasis upon informality and on continuing dialogue in the conduct of its Inquiry into the Legal Profession. It has issued two documents, LP3 (which describes the procedures it is following) and LP4 (which identifies a large number of issues for consideration). It has given to the New South Wales Law Society and the Bar Association deadlines for staged submissions over the whole area of issues covered in LP4, and their submissions on the division of the profession and on complaints and discipline, and a large number of other issues, are now to hand. In the absence of any organization representing "consumers" of legal services, the Commission has been at great pains to stimulate interest among a wide range of organizations and members of the public. In addition to issuing a general invitation to the public, it has written to a very large number of organizations of all kinds and to many of the major users of legal services in business, and to all State and Federal Members of Parliament in New South Wales.

The Commission has opened over 500 files based on communications from individual members of the public, either personally or in writing. A substantial number of these has resulted from "open houses", which have so far been held at Armidale, Forbes, Orange, Bathurst, Goulburn and Bega in the country, and at Parramatta, Hurstville, Liverpool, Leichhardt, Chatswood and Manly in the suburbs.

As submissions are processed they are placed on the public files of the Inquiry unless there is some special reason for preserving confidentiality. Files dealing with complaints and the replies by lawyers criticized will be presented in a way that does not identify those concerned. The Commission hopes that the material on its public files and discussion papers which it will issue will engender a continuing dialogue between the legal profession, the lay public and the Commission. The Commission is also seeking as much first-hand contact with lawyers as possible. It has attended meetings of Regional Law Societies at Armidale, Forbes, Merimbula and Maitland, and has visited the offices of a number of firms of solicitors in Sydney and the country.

Advantage has been taken of a private trip to the Northern Hemisphere by a Commissioner, Julian Disney, to obtain up-to-date information on the state of research into the legal profession. The Commission hopes to hold discussions with a number of distinguished overseas visitors who will attend the 19th Australian Legal Convention in Sydney in July. An interesting development is that the Law Institute of Victoria has decided to use the New South Wales Inquiry as a major vehicle for pressing its views on the reform of the legal profession.

Lucas Report on Queensland Criminal Law

Although differing from the A.L.R.C. approach, now substantially reflected in the *Criminal Investigation Bill 1977* (Cwth), the report of the Committee of Inquiry into the Enforcement of Criminal Law in Queensland does adopt a similar position in two critical respects. The report was delivered on 29 April to the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General for Queensland, Mr. W.D. Lickiss. The Commissioners were Mr. Justice Lucas of the Queensland Supreme Court, Mr. D.G. Sturgess, of the Queensland Bar and retired Chief Superintendent Becker.