

maintenance and adoption. The A.L.R.C. is receiving help from the N.S.W. Law Foundation.

■ The *Canberra Times* (17 November 1977), whilst welcoming the new law based on A.L.R.C.4 *Alcohol, Drugs & Driving*, complained that "it cannot be repeated too often that procrastination in updating the law is an inexcusable affront to the people of the A.C.T.". It instances mental health reform and "the drastic updating of the Child Welfare Ordinance" as cases requiring attention. The A.L.R.C. Commissioners are to meet in Canberra with the Law Society in February 1978.

■ In the last issue of *Reform* we carried the story of the Royal Commission by Mr. Justice Woodward in N.S.W. on Drug Trafficking. Since then a further Royal Commission has been established in Victoria, Queensland, W.A. and Tasmania with a broad reference on drug use and misuse in Australia. The Royal Commissioner is Mr. Justice Edward Williams, a judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland. In addition to the State Commissions, Williams J. holds a Royal Commission from the Commonwealth. A sign of the times is the use of a computer to index and cross-reference the transcript.

■ The first woman to be appointed a Prosecutor for the Crown in New South Wales is Miss Jane Matthews, a Barrister of Sydney. Miss Matthews was Counsel assisting the Royal Commission into Human Relationships under Justice Elizabeth Evatt. In private life she is the wife of Mr. Justice Wootten, Chairman of the N.S.W.L.R.C.

■ The Aboriginal Customary Laws reference is moving ahead slowly. Commissioners have attended discussions in Canberra with the Institute of Aboriginal Studies and seminars have been conducted in Sydney, Canberra and Perth. A major seminar in Sydney was arranged by the N.S.W. Institute of Technology and its new Faculty of Law. Organiser was Mr. Nick O'Neill, formerly Secretary of the P.N.G.L.R.C.

■ An interesting analysis of judges and their education and social class is to be found in a Fontana paperback *The Politics of the Judiciary* by J. A. G. Griffiths. A summary

appeared in the *New Statesman* of 21 October 1977. Despite changes in the general population, the statistics show little change in the social and educational background of judges in England over nearly two centuries.

■ The A.L.R.C. has had discussions with a number of bodies concerning its future programme. Under the *Law Reform Commission Act* the Commission has power to suggest matters suitable for reference. Consultation concerning a reference on Admiralty laws has been had in Melbourne with the Maritime Law Association. Readers of *Reform* with suggestions for future tasks for the Commonwealth's Commission in Australia should write to the A.L.R.C. with their suggestions.

New Reports

The following reports were announced or received between October 1977 and December 1977:

Australia

- A.L.R.C.: Insolvency: The Regular Payment of Debts (A.L.R.C.6). ✓
- : Annual Report 1977 (A.L.R.C.8). ✓
- : W.P.7: Access to Courts—I Standing: Public Interest Suits. ✓
- : Discussion Paper No. 3: Defamation & Publication Privacy—A Draft Uniform Bill.
- : Discussion Paper No. 4: Access to Courts—I Standing: Public Interest Suits.
- : Discussion Paper No. 5: Lands Acquisition Law: Reform Proposals. ✓

Q.L.R.C.: W.P.18: On bill to remove the anomalies presently existing with respect to civil liability for Animals and to rationalise the existing rules of the common law for damage done by Animals.

Tas.L.R.C.: 1977 10: Second Report to year ended 31 December 1976:

- : 1977 36: Obligations arising from de facto relationships. ✓
- : 1977 36: Report on discrimination on the grounds of sex. Aug. 1977. ✓

V.C.J.C.: Alternative remedies under the Workers' Compensation Act and at common law. ✓

W.A.L.R.C.: Annual Report 1976-1977.

- : W.P.64: Review of bail procedures. (See pp. 12, 15.)

Australia: Royal Commission on Human Relationships: Final Report, 5 Volumes. ✓

Australian Senate Committee on Constitutional & Legal Affairs: Report on the Evidence (A.C.T.) Bill 1972.

- : Report on Outstanding References, November 1977.

N.S.W. Parliament: Report on the Formal Investigation of an Accident on or about the up main western railway line at Granville on 18 January 1977.

N.S.W. A.G. & J. Criminal L. Review Division: Rape & Various Other Sexual Offences, Supplement to 1st Report. Oct. 1977.

N.S.W. Univ. of Sydney Inst. of Crim.: Annual Report 1977.
: No. 31: Bail No. 2.

United Kingdom

Law Commission: No. 83: Criminal Law Report on Defences of General Application.

✓ : W.P.72: 2nd Prog.: Item XVII: Codification of the Criminal Law, Treason, Sedition and Allied Offences.

✓ L.R.C.: 21: Final Report on Limitation of Actions.

Home Office: Criminal Statistics, England & Wales, 1975, Cmnd. 6566.

: W.P.: A Review of Criminal Justice Policy, 1976. (See p. 11.)

Scottish Home & Health Dept. & Crown Office: Criminal Procedure in Scotland (2nd Report), Cmnd. 6218.

Justice: Lawyers & the Legal System: A Critique of Legal Services in England & Wales.

: Casualties of the Legal System.

Canada

C.L.R.C.: W.P.18: Federal Court.

✓ : W.P.19: Theft & Fraud.

✓ : W.P. 20: Contempt of Court.

B.C.L.R.C.: 31: Waiver of Conditions Precedent in Contracts.

: 32: Proof of Marriage in Civil Proceedings.

: 33: Statute of Frauds.

New Zealand

✓ N.Z.P.L.R. & E.R.C.: The Decision in *Frazer v. Walker*.

✓ N.Z.P.A.L.R.C.: Discipline Within the Legal Profession.

N.Z. Law Society: Second Submission to the Royal Commission on the Courts.

Papua New Guinea

P.N.G.L.R.C. & Chief Magistrates: Joint W.P.2: Committal Proceedings.

P.N.G.L.R.C.: Occ. Paper No. 4: Sorcery.

United States of America

Calif.L.R.C.: Tentative Recommendations Relating to Evidence of Market Value of Property.

Other

Bahamas L.R. & R.C.: W.P.6, 1976: Family Provision.

: W.P.1, 1977: Amendment & Consolidation of the Law of Property.

Jamaica Ministry of Justice: Green Paper on Proposals of the Family Law Committee: Interim Report.

S.Africa L.C.: Annual Report 1976.

: Report of Inquiry into Granting Persons Convicted in Criminal Cases an Absolute Right of Appeal.

Trinidad & Tobago L.C.: W.P.4: The Amendment and Re-enactment of the Law Relating to Marine Insurance.

What's going on in the L.R.C.s

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

• *Privacy*. Work in hand (W.I.H.). See Discussion Paper No. 3 (Privacy in Publication) (p. 3). A schedule of in-house research papers requires completion of a series by March 1978.

• *Defamation*. Discussion paper No. 3 (Draft Act) (see p. 3). Draft report due early 1978.

• *Insolvency: The Regular Payment of Debts*. Report tabled November 1977. (See p. 6.)

• *Debt Recovery*. Discussion for distribution early 1978. (See p. 7.)

• *Insurance Contracts*. Seminar held with consultants. In-house paper on *Conduct of Insured*.

• *Access to the Courts (Locus Standi & Class Actions)*. Discussion Paper No. 4 (Standing in Public Interest Suits) distributed. (See p. 10.) (W.P. No. 7 available.)

• *Aboriginal Customary Laws*. Seminars and consultations continuing. (See p. 17.)

• *Lands Acquisition*. Discussion Paper No. 5 distributed. (See p. 12.)

• *Law Reform Digest*. Manuscript being reorganised and checked.

N.S.W. Law Reform Commission (N.S.W.L.R.C.)

• *Annual Report 1977*. This is now available in letterpress form.

• *Testator's Family Maintenance*. The report (L.R.C.28) is now printed.

• *Legal Profession*. W.I.H. The Commissioners have made visits interstate for comparative investigations. (See p. 5.)

• *Evidence*. Professor J. D. Heydon's extended term as a Commissioner expires at the end of January 1978. By that time a report is planned to be completed on *Hearsay Evidence* and a W.P. on *Evidence—General*.

• *Unincorporated Associations*. W.I.H. A consultative committee is considering draft legislation.

• *Money Judgments*. W.I.H. Co-operation with A.L.R.C. (See p. 7.)

N.T. Law Review Committee (N.T.L.R.C.)

• *Workmen's Compensation*. New rules including appeal rules and miscellaneous amendments to the Ordinance.

• *Criminal Procedure: Fitness to Plead*. W.I.H.

• *Aged and Infirm Persons*. Management of property and continuing Powers of Attorney. W.I.H.