

arrangements between Commonwealth and States. The Commonwealth would wish to avoid taking any initiatives for uniformity in this area which could have the effect of creating apparent anomalies in State courts or apparent discrepancies in the treatment of detainees in State prisons.

The Attorney-General declared that the increase in non-custodial sentencing options was 'the most significant development' in the reduction of imprisonment. He said that one could not doubt the need for adequate crime statistics, the absence of which is trenchantly criticised in the ALRC report. Senator Durack also announced that he hoped that the States and the Commonwealth could enact relevant legislation soon to permit exchanges of prisoners, so that persons convicted in other jurisdictions could be transferred to prisons closer to their homes. On the subject of criminal statistics, the Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police, Sir Colin Woods, earlier had some characteristically blunt things to say. He declared that many magistrates in Australia were forced to work 'in the dark' in imposing sentences in criminal cases. Not only were they not provided with any systematic information by which they could check their sentence. They also received no feedback on the people they had sent for punishment. In the recent Judicial Survey conducted by the ALRC with the N.S.W. Law Foundation, 74% of judicial officers answered that they either favoured or strongly favoured the compilation of detailed statistical data on sentencing as a means of promoting uniformity. Of the remaining 26%, the majority was either neutral or unsure rather than opposed to the idea.

: 55: *Relating to the Inherited Imperial statute Law on Practice & Procedure in this State, 1980*

WALRC : WP 11: *Liability for stock straying on to the highway, 1980*

#### Canada

Canada LRC : WP 27: *The Jury in Criminal Trials, 1980*

British Columbia LRC : 44: *Report on Parol Evidence Rule, 1979*

: WP 28: *The Making & Revocation of Wills, 1980*

Manitoba LRC : 40: *The Enforcement of Judgements: Part II: Exemptions under*

*'The Judgements Act', 1980*

Ontario LRC : *Thirteenth Annual Report, 1979*

Saskatchewan LRC : *Tentative Proposals for a Definition of Death Act, 1980*

: *Tentative Proposals for an Occupiers' Liability Act, 1980*

: *Tentative Proposals for Custody Law Reform. Part II: Procedures & Support Services, 1980.*

*Uniform Law Conference of Canada : Proceeding of the Sixty-first Annual Meeting, 1979.*

#### United Kingdom

Law Com: WP 75: *Classification of Limitation in Private International Law, 1980*

: WP 76: *Time Restrictions on Presentation of Divorce & Nullity Petitions, 1980*

: DP: *Divorce in the Early Years of Marriage, 1980*

Scottish Law Com : 58: *Education (Scot.) Bill: Report on the Consolidation of Certain Enactments Relating to Education in Scotland, 1980*

: Memo 44: *The Law of Incest in Scotland, 1980*

: Memo 45: *Time-Limits in Actions for Personal Injuries, 1980*

Eng LRC : 22: *Twenty Second Report: The Making & Revocation of Wills, 1980 (Cmnd 7902)*

Police Complaints Board : *Triennial Review Report, 1980*

Justice : *Breaking the Rules: the Problem of Crimes & Conventions, 1980*

: *The Local Ombudsman: a Review of the First Five Years, 1980*

## what's going on in the LRCs?

#### Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC)

- *Insurance Contracts*. First stage, report tabled dealing with insurance intermediaries. Second stage, work in hand. (WIH). See p.100
- *Sentencing*. Interim report now available from printer. Report being widely distributed and debated. Public hearings contemplated in 1981. See p. 128.
- *Lands Acquisition and Compensation*. Report under consideration in Federal administration. Discussed in ALJ. See p. 128.

## new reports

#### Australia

ALRC : 16 : *Insurance Agents & Brokers* (1980). See p.100.  
NSWLRC : *Annual Report 1979*

SALRC : 50: *Regarding Data Protection, 1980*

: 53: *Relating to the projected Securities Industrial Bill, 1980, of the Commonwealth Parliament, 1979*

: 54: *Relating to the topics of Property, Trusts, Uses, Equity & Wills, 1980*