

matiating effect and unhelpful operation of criminal sanctions. The *Sydney Morning Herald* (27 January 1981) pointed out that consent provisions vary in different parts of Australia. In the Northern Territory it is 13. It concluded that the age limit of 16 'is divorced from social reality and should therefore be changed'. It is hard, declared the editor, 'to find even the slightest biological justification for it'. Nonetheless, the NSW Government has indicated that it does not propose legal changes on this issue. State Cabinet made it clear that the present law would hold.

- Another possible Reference to the ALRC is referred to in the important report of the Joint Select Committee of the Australian Parliament on the Family Law Act (Mr. P.M. Ruddock, M.P., Chairman). In a comprehensive report proposing many changes, the Committee specifically proposes that arrangements for the introduction of a full matrimonial property regime in Australia should be preceded by a survey to establish community attitudes to the proposal and a full study by the ALRC of the legal implications of the introduction of such a scheme. The report, *Family Law in Australia*, (1980) reviews matrimonial property developments in Europe, the U.K., N.Z. and Canada. It points out that a legal presumption of joint ownership has applied in Victoria with respect to the matrimonial home for 17 years. Federal Attorney-General Durack has announced action on several of the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee (including the recommendation to permit opening of the Family Court to the public at the discretion of the court). However, no announcement has yet been made on the recommended Reference to the ALRC. A report in the *National Times* (8 March 1981) suggests that Senator Durack

may have a special ad hoc committee in mind.

new reports

Australia

ALRC : 17 : *Annual Report, 1980. See p. 46.*

SALRC : 63 : *Relating to the Amendment of Section 125 of the Motor Vehicles Act 1959, 1980.*

TasLRC : 26 : *Report on the Repeal of the Common Law Procedure Act 1854, and Incidental Matters, 1981.*

: 27 : *Report & Recommendation relating to Animals Straying upon the Highway, 1981.*

: : *Report on the Law and Procedure relating to the Sale of Land by Instalments, 1981.*

VLRC : 10 : *Delivery of Deeds, 1980.*

WALRC : 51 : *Report on Unclaimed Money, 1980*

: 71 : *Report on Exemption from Jury Service, 1980.*

WP 11: *Liability for Stock Straying on to the Highway, 1980.*

: WP 34: *Part IV. Recognition of Interstate & Foreign Grants of Probate and of Letters of Administration, 1908.*

University of Sydney *Institute of Criminology: 43: Police Discretion in the Criminal Process, 1980.*

Canada

Canada : SP : *Search and Seizure Powers of Private Security Personnel, 1979.*

LRC : SP : *Council on Administration, 1980.*

: SP : *Canada Labour Relations Board, 1980.*

British Columbia LRC

: 46 : *Civil Litigation in the Public Interest, 1980.*

: WP 30: *Benefits Conferred under a Mistake of Law, 1981.*

Manitoba: 45 : *Report on a Simplified Mortgage Form.*

LRC

Saskatchewan LRC : *Tentative Proposals for Defences to Provincial Offences, 1981.*

: : *Tentative Proposals for a Guardianship Act. Part I: Personal Guardianship, 1981.*

Papua New Guinea

PNGLRC: *Annual Report, 1979. See p. 47.*

: OP 14 : *A Third Review of the Motor Vehicles (Third Party Insurance) (Basic Protection Compensation) Act 1974, 1981.*

United Kingdom

Law Com: 106 : *Statute Law Revision. Tenth Report, 1980.*

United States of America

Calif LRC: : *Uniform Law Commissioners' Model Periodic Payment of Judgments Act, 1980.*

New York LRC : *Proposed Code of Evidence for the State of New York, 1980.*

what's going on in the LRCs?**Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC)**

- *Insurance Contracts.* Report on agents and brokers under consideration. See 1980. *Reform* 100. On balance of report, work in hand (WIH).
- *Sentencing.* Interim report circulating. Preliminary discussions with Australian Institute of Criminology on follow-up. See above p. 60
- *Privacy.* Report being drafted. See p. 60.
- *Debt Recovery.* WIH.
- *Class Actions and Standing.* WIH. Separate reports to be delivered: Standing first. Meeting with Standing consultants, February 1981. See above p. 66.
- *Aboriginal Customary laws.* Commissioner Debele undertaking extensive public consultation in remote Australia. Capital city public hearings March-May 1981.
- *Child Welfare.* WIH. Draft report nearly completed. Legislation being considered.
- *Evidence.* Issues paper and DP circulating. Meeting with consultants February 1981.
- *Law Reform Digest.* WIH. Manuscript circulating to Australian LRCs.
- *Law Reform Suggestions.* See Annual Report 1980 (ALRC 17) above, p. 46.

N.S.W. Law Reform Commission (NSWLRC)

- *Legal Profession.* WIH. Drafting of a further DP well advanced.
- *Evidence.* WIH. Co-operation with ALRC.
- *Unincorporated Associations.* WIH.
- *Judgments.* Enforcement of Money Judgments. WIH. Co-operation with ALRC.
- *Annual Report 1980.* Tabled and with printer. Available soon.

N.T. Law Review Committee (NTLRC)

- See [1980] *Reform* 130.

N.Z. Law Reform Committees

- See [1981] *Reform* 36.

Papua New Guinea Law Reform Commission (PNGLRC)

- See [1980] *Reform* 130. See also above p. 47.

Queensland Law Reform Commission (QLRC)

- *Practice & Procedure:* Rules of the Supreme Court and Ancillary Acts. WIH.

South Australian Law Reform Committee (SALRC)

- See [1981] *Reform* 36.

South Australian Criminal Law Reform Committee (SACLRC)

- See [1980] *Reform* 130.

Tasmanian Law Reform Commission (TasLRC)

- *Animals Straying.* Report submitted to Attorney-General and tabled in Parliament.
- *Ejectment.* Provisions in Common Law Procedure Act 1854. Report submitted to Attorney-General and tabled in Parliament.
- *Evidence.* Rule in *Hollington v. Hewthorn*. Further discussion taking place in conjunction with Canadian material recently received.
- *Small Claims Tribunals.* Discussion of draft report at February meeting.

Victorian Chief Justice's Law Reform Committee (VCJC)

- *Occupiers' Liability.* WIH.
- *Habeas Corpus Act.* WIH.
- *Limitation of Actions for Personal Injury.* WIH.
- *Oaths & Affirmations.* WIH.
- *Supreme Court Act 1958*, s.142-159 (Foreign Attachments). WIH.
- *Exemption Clauses in Contracts.* WIH.
- *Sentencing.* Proof of Prior Convictions Before Sentence. WIH.
- *Wills for Mentally Disordered Persons.* WIH.
- *Unincorporated Associations.* Report accepted and legislation will be introduced on the basis of it.