

The object of the reference on Formalities of Oaths, Declarations and Attestation of Documents was to produce recommendations for uniform legislation throughout Australia. The WALRC dealt with part of this reference in its report on *Official Attestation of Forms and Documents*. The recommendations in this report dealing with statutory declarations had been submitted to the Standing Committee of Commonwealth and State Attorneys-General (SCAG), but in March 1983 it decided not to proceed with these proposals for uniform law. The remainder of the reference, dealing with attestation other than by statutory declaration, had been deferred pending the outcome of SCAG's deliberations, and has now been withdrawn since it seems unlikely that uniform legislation can be agreed on in this area.

The WALRC published a working paper on *Compensation for Persons Detained in Custody* in 1976. However, in accordance with the wishes of the then Attorney-General, work on the project was subsequently deferred. In June 1983 the present Attorney-General withdrew the reference. The report of an English inquiry into the same matter appeared in 1982. See 'Justice', *Compensation for Wrongful Imprisonment* (1982).

new reports

Australia

ALRC :	: The Law Reform Digest. See above p.143
: <i>Evidence RP 15</i>	: Admissions (S Odgers)
: <i>Evidence RP 16</i>	: Privilege (I Freckelton and T H Smith)
: <i>Foreign SI RP 3</i>	: Basic Principles, Assessment of Need for Legislation (Prof J R Crawford)
: <i>Foreign SI RP 4</i>	: Content of Legislation on Immunity from Jurisdiction (S Curran)
NSWLRC : 36	: Report on Defacto Relationships, 1983. See above p.150
QLRC :	: Report on Easements: Registration Under the <i>Real Property Act</i> 1861-1981
SALRC : 64	: Report Relating to the Reform of the Law on Wills and Intestacies, 1983

: 72	: Report Relating to the Amendment of the Law of Escheat, 1983
TasLRC: <i>WP</i>	: The Boundary Fences Act 1908, 1983 (W G Briscoe)
WALRC: <i>WP 16</i>	: Local Courts Act and Rules, 1983, Part I

Canada

CLRC : <i>WP 30</i>	: Criminal Law: Police Powers — Search and Seizure in Criminal Law Enforcement, 1983
: <i>SP</i>	: Administrative Law: Parliament and Administrative Agencies, 1983 (F F Slatter)
BCLRC : 62	: Report on Interspousal Immunity in Tort, 1983
: 63	: Report on Peremptory Challenges in Civil Jury Trials, 1983

Hong Kong

HKLRC: <i>Topic 7</i>	: Report on Community Service Orders, 1983
:	: Review of Commission Activities, 1983

New Zealand

NZCCLRC :	: Report on Rule in <i>White &amp; Carter (Councils) Limited v McGregor</i> , 1983
:	: Report on Aspects of Insurance Law (2), 1983.

United Kingdom

Scot : 78	: Evidence: Report on Evidence in Cases of Rape and Other Sexual Offences, 1983
Law	
Com	

United States of America

Calif :	: Recommendation Relating to Liability of Marital Property for Debts, 1983
LRC	
:	: Recommendation Relating to Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care Decision, 1983
:	: Tentative Recommendation Relating to Marital Property Presumptions and Transmutations, 1983
:	: Tentative Recommendation Relating to Rights Among Co-Tenants in Possession and out of Possession of Real Property, 1983
:	: Tentative Recommendation Relating to Disposition of Community Property, 1983

- : Tentative Recommendation Relating to Effect of Quiet Title and Partition Judgment, 1983
- : Revised Tentative Recommendation Relating to Dormant Mineral Rights, 1983

## new references

- NSWLRC* : Magistrates: Procedures and Criteria for Selection of Magistrates and Operation of Local Courts Act 1982.
- TasLRC* : Fines
- : Jurisdiction and Procedure of the Courts of Requests and General Sessions
- : The Law Relating to Succession Rights on Intestacy
- : The Law Relating to Computer Misuse Which Attracts Criminal Sanctions
- : The Law Relating to the Payment of Interest on Judgment Debts
- : The Law Relating to Suretyship and Guarantee
- : The Law Relating to the Variation of Private Trusts
- : The Law Relating to Occupiers' Liability
- : The Law Relating to Contracts and the Disposition of Property by Infants
- : The Law Relating to Private Rights of Access to Neighbouring Land
- : The Law Relating to Powers of Attorney

- *Aboriginal Customary Laws*. WIH. Professor James Crawford attending Conference on Folk Law in Canada and holding discussions with Canadian and US authorities. See [1983] *Reform* 109.
- *Standing and Class Actions*. WIH. Draft report on standing still being reviewed. Work on class actions in suspension, but likely to revive late 1983.
- *Debt Recovery*. Project revived under Professor D St L Kelly. Mr W J Tearle, Senior Researcher, attending conference and consultations in England.
- *Admiralty Jurisdiction and Law*. WIH. Dr D Cremean has commenced duties. Professor Crawford holding discussions in England and United States concerning admiralty reforms.
- *Foreign State Immunity*. Initial consultants' meeting held August 1983. Final research paper expected end of 1983. Professor Crawford holding discussions in Canada, United States and England.
- *Service and Execution of Process*. Project commenced under Dr Michael Pryles, new Commissioner. See above p.139.
- *Contempt Law*. WIH. Work proceeding under Professor Michael Chesterman. See [1983] *Reform* 94.
- *Matrimonial Property Law*. New reference. Work proceeding under Professor David Hambly. See above p.139.
- *Community Law Reform*. New program being initiated, particularly in the ACT. See above p.140.

### New South Wales Law Reform Commission (NSWLRC)

- *Criminal Procedure*. Submissions in response to Issues Paper No 1 are being received and dealt with. The program is being reconsidered and it is expected that at least one more publication will be released in 1983.
- *Legal Profession Inquiry*. It is expected that the third, and final, Report on the Legal Profession Inquiry will be published in 1983. The report will cover solicitors' trust accounts, the solicitors' fidelity fund, and professional indemnity insurance for all legal practitioners.
- *Accident Compensation*. Conference held on 4 August 1983 in Sydney. There was a large number of lawyers present and there was considerable antagonism shown towards LRC's proposals. The opposition centred on the abolition of the common law. There has been much consultation since the WP's release, with interested parties such as trade unions and disabled people's groups, and also some preliminary discussions with the Federal Government. Members of the Commission

## what's going on in the LRCs?

### Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC)

- *Law Reform Digest*. The Digest of reports of law reform agencies in Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea 1910-1980 is now available. See above p.143.
- *Sentencing*. Work in suspension. Hoped to be revived at the end of 1983.
- *Privacy*. Report with printer. Expected to be tabled in Australian Parliament, October/November 1983.
- *Evidence*. Work in hand (WIH). Further meetings with consultants held. Draft interim report being prepared. Discussion in Washington with Federal Judges concerning United States Federal Evidence Rules 1975. ALRC, under Mr T H Smith, working on interim report, due early 1984.