

Hong Kong

- HKLRC : Report on Laws of Insurance, 1985, Topic 9.

Ireland

- Ireland LRC : Report on Jurisdiction in Proceedings for Nullity of Marriage, Recognition of Foreign Nullity Decrees, and the Hague Convention on the Celebration and Recognition of the Validity of Marriages (1978), 1985, No20.

United Kingdom

- Law Com : Report on the Rights of Access to Neighbouring Land, 1985, No151.
- : Report on Property Law, Liability for Chancel Repairs, 1985, No152.

- : Report on Law of Contract, The Parol Evidence Rule, 1986, No154.

- : Working Paper on Trusts of Land, 1985, No94.

- Scot Law Com: : Twentieth Annual Report 1984-85, 1985, No98.

- : Report on Obligations, report on Civil Liability in Relation to Animals, 1985, No97.

- : Report on Diligence and Debtor Protection, 1986, No95.

new references

WALRC

Financial Protection of Building Sub-Contractors, referred 1985. Terms of reference to recommend what changes to the law, if any (other than contractors', liens and charges) should be adopted for the protection of the interests of sub-contractors and workers in the building and construction industries in receiving payment for work done or materials supplied.

Payment of Witnesses in Civil Proceedings, referred 1986. Terms of Reference to consider and report on the law and practice relating to the payment of compensation in respect of persons who are, or who are required to undertake to appear, as witnesses in, or who are required or undertake to produce any document or thing

in, a civil or other legal proceedings but excluding criminal procedure.

what's going on in the LRC's

Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC)

Contempt of Court. WIH. DP on 'Contempt and the Media' issued March 1986. DP on other aspects of Contempt due April 1986. Summary of the three DP's will be available also in April 1986, before the public hearings, which will take place in every capital city during late May/early June.

Insolvency. Second consultants meeting held in March 1986. Discussion was on the briefing papers dealing with Trading Trusts, Secured and other like Creditors, Bankruptcy Proceedings and Antecedent Transactions. Further consultants meetings to consider further papers in May 1986. Discussion Paper expected late 1986.

Class Actions. Project to be revived when resources permit.

Sentencing. WIH. Papers on 'Non-Custodial Sentencing Options', 'Sentencing Discretion', 'Civil Disabilities', 'Profile of Federal Offenders', 'Towards Rational Sentencing: Limits to Sentencing Reform', 'Sentencing of Federal and ACT Offenders: some Reform Proposals', proceeding.

Debt Recovery. WIH. Final draft of report under consideration.

Matrimonial Property Law. WIH. Report in preparation, due late 1986.

Aboriginal Customary Law. Report being printed.

Service and Execution of Process. RP7, discussing major policy issues and including draft legislation, released January. Disappointing public response. WIH on report.

Privacy/Sentencing: Expungement of Criminal Records. WIH. Public Hearings to take place in selected capital cities Mid 1986. Report due late 1986.

Occupiers Liability. WIH

Community Law Reform in the ACT.

— *Loss of Consortium*. WIH.

Evidence. WIH. Final report due late 1986.

Admiralty Jurisdiction. Final consultations being undertaken.

New South Wales Law Reform Commission (NSWLRC)

Criminal Procedure

— *The Jury in a Criminal Trial*. Report expected shortly.

- *Procedure before Trial in Criminal Cases*. Discussion Paper expected in June 1986.
- *Classification of Criminal Offences*. Preliminary work has commenced.
- *Appeals in Criminal Cases*. Preliminary work has commenced.

Artificial Conception

- *Human Artificial Insemination*. Report on point of completion.
- *In Vitro Fertilisation*. Work well advanced on Discussion Paper.

Registration and Certification of Births and Deaths. Discussion Paper nearing completion.

Sale of Goods. WIH.

Community Law Reform

- *Garnishment of Building Society and Credit Union Accounts*. Report tabled in February 1986.
- *Execution, Attestation and Revocation of Wills*. Report at printer. Tabling expected shortly.
- *Limitation of Actions*. Report nearing completion.
- *Employees' Liability*. Report nearing completion.
- *Payments made under Mistake of Law*. Report nearing completion.
- *Contribution between Persons liable for the same Damage*. WIH.
- *Dog Act*. WIH.
- *Highway Authorities/Non-Feasance*. WIH.

Northern Territory Law Reform Committee (NTLRC)

Supreme Court Rules. WIH.
De Facto Relationships. WIH.
Administrative Appeals. WIH.
Statutory Interpretation. WIH.

Queensland Law Reform Commission (QLRC)

Real Property Act. WIH.
Computer Technology – Evidence Act. WIH.
Property Law Act. WIH.

South Australian Law Reform Committee (SALRC)

Misfeasance and non-feasance. Sent to the printer.
Survivorship. Being printed.
Entire contracts. Sent to the printer.
Limitation of actions – prescription. Report circulating for signature.
Delivery of deeds. Report circulating for signature.

Crown proceedings. Draft report being considered.

Locus standi in environmental matters. Sent for signature.

Detinue trover and conversion. Draft report about to be considered at next meeting.

Dealing in public offices. Draft report prepared.

Sunday observance. Draft report prepared.

Voluntary non-profit organisations – locus standi. Draft report prepared.

Carriers. Report has been prepared.

Privy of contract. Report has been prepared.

Effect of mistake on contracts. Draft report being prepared.

Champerty. Draft report being prepared.

Mortgages and Protection of Mortgages. DP being prepared.

Evidence. Draft report being prepared.

Tasmanian Law Reform Commission (TasLRC)

Suretyship and Guarantee – Draft Report being considered.

Minor's Contracts – Draft Report being considered.

Compensation for Personal Injuries – Draft Report being prepared.

Child Witnesses – Research being undertaken.

Computer Misuse – Draft being prepared.

Private Trusts – Draft Report being prepared.

Occupiers Liability – Draft Report being prepared.

Onus of Proof – Submissions being received.

Workers Compensation – Report being prepared.

Victorian Chief Justice's Law Reform Committee (VCJC)

See [1986] *Reform* 52.

The Victorian Law Reform Commission (VLRC)

Plain English WIH. Issues paper on the principles of plain english drafting in the course of preparation, due April 1986. Report due end 1986.

Medicine Science and the Law WIH. Discussion paper on informed consent in the course of preparation, due shortly. A seminar program on issues relating to informed consent has been organised for 1986. Professor Margaret Somerville spoke on Informed Consent – An Overview at the first seminar of the program in late February. A report on informed consent will be released after this program is concluded.

Commercial Sales and Leases WIH. A discussion paper on the Hire Purchase Act was released in early March 1986. Final report due late April 1986. It is not proposed to proceed further with this reference at this time.

Sexual Offences WIH. A discussion paper on the substantive law is due in June 1986. Report due at the end of 1986. A discussion paper on evidence and procedure is also due at the end of 1986, for final report by July 1987.

Automatism (O'Connor's Case) WIH. The final report is in the course of preparation, for release in May 1986.

Homicide WIH. A report on the mental element in homicide is in the course of preparation, for release in July 1986.

Juries. Background paper to be published shortly.

Victorian Legal and Constitutional Committee (VLCC)

Human Rights. This inquiry has now been publicly launched and a discussion paper entitled 'A Bill of Rights for Victoria? Some Issues' has been released for information. Written submissions have been called for and public hearings will commence in mid-May. Two more discussion papers will be released shortly, both dealing with whether or not human rights are adequately protected in Victoria. The second discussion paper will deal with the right to life, electoral rights, the burden of proof and the right to peaceful assembly. The third discussion paper will deal with freedom of expression.

Support Services for Victims of Crime. This inquiry has also now been publicly launched. Written submissions have been requested by 30 May next and public hearings will be held in mid 1986.

Burden of Proof. The Committee reported on the burden of proof in criminal cases in November 1985 and is now awaiting the Attorney-General's response to that report before proceeding any further.

Delays in Courts. This inquiry is on hold at present, due to the launching of both human rights and the victims of crime. However, priority will still be given to delays in criminal courts from commission of alleged offence to time of trial.

Australian Constitutional Convention. The Committee has finalised its second report on the Convention and it will be presented to the Victorian Parliament shortly. It deals with the 1985 Brisbane Plenary Session, the current position of the Australian Constitutional Convention, an assessment of the Convention together with its future.

Subordinate Legislation. The Committee continues to review all subordinate legislation in Victoria. Since 1 July 1985 the Committee has had a greatly expanded role with the coming into operation of the *Subordinate Legislation Review and Revocation) Act* 1984.

Western Australian Law Reform Commission (VALRC)

Local Courts. Report being drafted.

Administrative Decisions: Judicial Review. Report submitted.

Limitation and Notice of Actions. Discussion Paper in preparation.

Alteration of Ground Levels. Report submitted.

Justices Act. Report being drafted.

Privacy. Report in preparation.

Criminal Proceedings and Mental Disorder. Discussion paper in preparation.

Wills: Substantial Compliance. Report submitted.

Problem of Old Convictions. Report being drafted.

obituary

Senator Missen

Alan Missen was a good friend of this Commission. His untimely death has been a matter of great sadness for all of us. His ability, integrity and courage appealed to everyone who knew him, whether or not they agreed with what he was saying at any particular time. We offer our most sincere sympathy to his widow, Mrs Mollie Missen.

personalia

Professor James Crawford

Professor James Crawford, a Member of the Australian Law Reform Commission, has been appointed Challis Professor of International Law at Sydney University. His appointment commenced on 1 February 1986. Prior to this appointment he was Professor of Law at the University of Adelaide. Professor Crawford was a full-time Member of the ALRC from January 1982 to December 1984. He is currently a part-time Member. During his appointment at the ALRC he has been Commissioner in Charge of the Divisions on Aboriginal Customary Law, Foreign State Immunity and Admiralty. The Report on Aboriginal Customary Law is now with the printer. The Foreign State Immunity Report was tabled in Parliament in October 1984 and an Act almost identical to the draft Bill in the Report, received the Royal Assent on 16 December 1985. The Report on Admiralty should be completed this year. Further details of Professor Crawford's career appear at [1983] *Reform* 135.

Ms Helen Gamble

Ms Helen Gamble, a senior lecturer in law at the Aus-