

by such persons against artificial prolongation of life. The Commission is calling for preliminary submissions as part of its initial work on this reference.

what's going on in the LRC's

Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC)

- *Contempt of Court*. WIH. DP on 'Contempt: Disruption, Disobedience and Deliberate Interference' issued April 1986. Summary of the three DP's (24, 26, 27) also available. Public hearings in every capital city during June.
- *Insolvency*. Third consultants meeting to be held in June 1986 at which papers on Receivers, Winding-up of companies and Part X of Bankruptcy Act will be discussed.
- *Class Actions*. WIH. Project revived under Peter Cashman and John Basten.
- *Sentencing*. WIH. DP expected.
- *Debt Recovery*. WIH. Final draft of report under consideration.
- *Matrimonial Property Law*. WIH. Report in preparation, due late 1986.
- *Aboriginal Customary Law*. Report tabled.
- *Service and Execution*. 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. Meeting with Victorian Bar Association and NSW Bar Association during May. Final report due late 1986.
- *Admiralty Jurisdiction*. Final draft report being prepared.

New South Wales Law Reform Commission (NSWLRC)

- *Criminal Procedure*
 - *The Jury in a Criminal Trial*. Report tabled in April 1986.
 - *The Jury in a Criminal Trial – Empirical Surveys Report*. Soon to be published.
 - *Procedure before Trial in Criminal Cases*. Discussion Paper completed in draft; publication expected soon.
 - *Classification of Criminal Offences*. Preliminary work has commenced.
 - *Appeals in Criminal Cases*. Preliminary work has commenced. Discussion Paper expected in late 1986.
- *Artificial Conception*
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Human Artificial Insemination. Report on point of completion.

- *In Vitro Fertilisation*. Work well advanced on Discussion Paper.
- *Surrogacy*. Research commenced.
- *Registration and Certification of Births and Deaths*. Background research completed. Consultation commenced.
- *Evidence*. Research concerning application of ALRC Interim Report commenced.
- *Occupiers Liability*. WIH.
- *Sale of Goods*. Draft report prepared.
- *Community Law Reform*
 - *Execution, Attestation and Revocation of Wills*. Report released June 1986.
 - *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.
 - *Disposal of Uncollected Goods*. WIH.

Queensland Law Reform Commission (QLRC)

- *Real Property Acts*. WIH.
- *Property Law Act*. WIH. South Australian Law Reform Commission (SALRC)
- *Documentary Evidence*. Draft report being prepared.
- *Maintenance and Allied Offences*. Draft report being considered. Tasmanian Law Reform Commission (TasLRC)
- *Suretyship and Guarantee*. Draft report being considered.
- *Minors' Contracts*. Draft report being considered.
- *Compensation for Personal Injuries*. Report being prepared.
- *Child Witnesses*. Research being undertaken.
- *Computer Misuse*. Report being prepared.
- *Private Trusts*. Report being prepared.
- *Occupier's Liability*. Report being prepared.
- *Onus of Proof*. Report being prepared.

Victorian Law Reform Commission (VLRC)

- *Plain English*. WIH. Discussion paper on the principles of plain English drafting, in their application to legislative drafting and the government communications, in the course of preparation, due June 1986. Report due end 1986.
- *Medicine Science and the Law*. WIH. Discussion papers on Informed Consent and Gene

Modification in the course of preparation, due October and September 1986 respectively.

- *Commercial Sales and Leases*. WIH. Report on repeal of the Hire Purchase Act in course of preparation, due June 1986.
- *Sexual Offences*. WIH. Discussion paper on Rape and Allied Offences due end June 1986; report due late 1986. Discussion paper on other Crimes Act Offences due late 1986; report mid 1987.
- *Automatism (Intoxication)*. WIH. Final report in course of preparation, due June 1986.
- *Homicide*. WIH. Report on Mental Element in Murder delayed in order to extend coverage to the Mental Element in Manslaughter.
- *Corporate Crime*. Background paper on the Role of the Jury in Criminal Trials published March 1986.

Victorian Legal and Constitutional Committee (VLCC)

- *Delays in Courts*. This inquiry is on hold at present, because the Committee is concentrating on the Human Rights and Victims of Crime referencences. It is hoped that further work will be done on Delays in Criminal Courts later this year.
- *Australian Constitutional Convention*. The Committee presented its second report on the Australian Constitutional Convention to Parliament in March. This report dealt 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 has recently tabled four reports in relation to subordinate legislation as a result of its new role under the *Subordinate Legislation Act* 1962.
- *Human Rights*. Three discussion papers have now been released and widely circulated for discussion and comment.

The three papers are titled:

- A Bill of Rights for Victoria? Some issues.
- Are Human Rights Adequately protected in Victoria? Some preliminary examples.
- Freedom of Expression in Victoria.
- Written submissions are currently being called for and are requested by 15 August 1986. Public hearings are commencing in June. The Committee is currently seeking an extension of its inquiry to 30 June 1987.
- *Support Services for Victims of Crime*. Written submissions are currently being received and public hearings will commence on 10 June next. An extension of time to 30 June 1987 for the completion of this inquiry is currently being sought from the Minister of Police and Emergency Services.

- *Burden of Proof*. The Committee is still awaiting a response to its November 1985 report on Burden of Proof. Therefore no further action is currently taking place in regard to this inquiry.

Western Australian Law Reform Commission (WALRC)

- *Local Courts*. Report being drafted.
- *Limitation and Notice of Actions*. Discussion Paper in preparation.
- *Courts of Petty Session*. Report being drafted.
- *Privacy*. Report in preparation.
- *Criminal Process and Mental Disorder*. Discussion Paper being drafted.
- *Problem of Old Convictions*. Report being drafted.
- *Medical Treatment for the Dying*. New reference.

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The Hon Mr Justice Howard Zelling

Mr Justice Zelling, Chairman of the Law Reform Committee of South Australia since 1968, will retire from the bench in August this year. The name of his successor as Chairman is yet to be announced. He was admitted in 1938, took silk in 1962, was appointed an Acting Judge of the South Australian Supreme Court in March 1969. The appointment was made permanent in October, 1969. He lectured in Constitutional Law in the Faculty of Law at Adelaide University from 1948 to 1962 and was coexaminer in that subject until 1981. He also lectured on the same subject in the Faculty of Economics from 1952 to 1962. He received the rare degree of Doctor of the University in 1983 for his University work. He commenced doing law reform reports in 1949. In 1957 he became a member of, and then in 1961 Chairman of, the Law Society's Law Reform Committee until the formation of the Law Reform Committee of South Australia in August 1968. He was then appointed Chairman of the Committee and has served continuously in that office ever since, which is believed to be a record for Australia. For his work in Law Reform he was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia in the recent Honours list. His Honour was President of the Law Council of Australia from 1966 — 1968 and was created a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1969.

The Hon Mr Justice Helsham

Mr Justice Helsham recently retired as the New South Wales Chief Judge in Equity, a position he held for nearly ten years. Mr Justice Helsham was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross during the Second World War. He served as a bomber pilot in the Pacific. He was appointed an Acting Judge in May 1968 and a Judge a few months later. He became Chief Judge of the Equity Division of the Supreme Court in December 1976. He was Judge Advocate General of the Royal Australian