

- *Occupational Regulation*. First joint DP on occupational regulation, 'Estate Agents and Auctioneers', has been published by the Commission and the Regulation Review Unit. Two more papers on general regulatory principles and secondhand dealers/pawnbrokers are near completion.
- *Medicine Science and the Law*. A DP on gene modification will be released soon, and a more general paper on the subject is ready to be printed. Symposium papers on informed consent and a DP on the subject are with the printer.
- *Obsolete Legislation*. Report tabled by the Attorney-General in August. Copies will be available in October.
- *Land Law*. Report on Mortgagee's Auctions and Judgment Debts was tabled in August. A 'plain English' Subdivision Bill was drafted and is due for introduction in the Legislative Council soon. Final drafts of the Torrens Register report are being examined by consultants.
- *Sexual Offences*. 'Rape and Allied Offences: Substantive Aspects' report has been tabled. Three consultancy projects relating to child sex abuse have been commissioned. The report on procedural and evidentiary aspects of the rape reference is in a final draft form. Papers on child victims, and victims with impaired mental functioning are in preparation.
- *Medical treatment for minors*. DP in preparation.
- *Medical treatment for the dying*. DP in preparation.
- *Police Act Offences*. DP in preparation.
- *Minors Contracts*. Report in preparation.
- *Limitation and notice of actions*. DP in preparation.
- *Payment of Witnesses in Civil Proceedings*. DP in preparation.

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obituary

Sir Richard Blackburn

Australian National University Chancellor, Sir Richard Blackburn, died in Canberra this month, aged 69. Sir Richard had been associated with Law Reform for many years. He was Chairman of the Law Reform Commission of the Australian Capital Territory between 1971 and 1976. He had been Chancellor of the ANU since 1984. He was Chief Judge of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory from 1977 to 1982 and Chief Justice of that court from 1982 to 1985. He was a judge of the Federal Court from 1977 to 1985 and a judge of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory from 1966 to 1971. Sir Richard is survived by his widow, Lady Helen Blackburn, and a son and a daughter.

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Western Australia Law Reform Commission (WALRC)

- *Criminal Process and Mental Disorder*. DP issued and comments being considered.
- *Local Courts*. Report in preparation.

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The Hon Justice Michael Kirby CMG

Former Chairman of the Australian Law Reform Commission and now President of