

- *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

the New South Wales Court of Appeal, Justice Michael Kirby recently visited New Zealand and was invited to sit on the Court of Appeal in New Zealand by its President, Sir Robin Cook. It is understood that Justice Michael Kirby is the first non-New Zealand Judge to do this.

The Hon Mr Justice Trevor Hartigan

The Hon Mr Justice Trevor Hartigan was appointed a judge of the Federal Court of Australia and the President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal in August 1987. The former President of the AAT, Mr Justice Davies, resigned on 30 June 1987 and is now engaged full-time as a judge of the Federal Court in Sydney. Justice Hartigan was educated at the University of Queensland and has been practising as a barrister in Queensland since 1965. In 1981 he was appointed a Queen's Counsel. He was Vice-President of the Bar Association of Queensland between 1984 and 1987. Since March of this year he has been President of the Association. He was Chairman of the Barristers' Board of Queensland between 1984 and 1987.

The Hon Justice Robert French

The Honourable Justice Robert Shenton French, a judge of the Federal Court of Australia has been appointed an additional judge of the Supreme Court of the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands. Mr Justice French will replace Mr Justice Muirhead who retired from the Federal Court and consequently from the Supreme Court of Cocos (Keeling) Islands in August 1986. Since then, the Supreme Court has had only one judge, Sir William Forster. Mr Justice French, who is the Federal Court Judge resident in Perth, will continue to sit on the Federal Court. He will travel to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands to sit as an additional judge of the Supreme Court of the Territory when necessary.

The Hon Justice Austin Asche

Mr Justice Austin Asche, a former Acting Chief Judge of the Family Court, was appointed Chief Justice of the Northern Territory in July 1987. Mr Justice Asche took over from Mr Justice Kevin O'Leary who retired for medical reasons. Mr Justice Asche, who graduated from Melbourne University, practised at the Bar in Queensland and Melbourne until 1975 and became a Queen's Counsel in 1972. He was the Acting Chief Judge of the Family Court in 1985 and 1986. He was appointed to the Northern Territory Supreme Court in April 1986.

Professor Duncan Chappell

Professor Duncan Chappell, a former full-time member of the Australian Law Reform Commission, was appointed Director of the Australian Institute of Criminology in July 1987. From 1973 to 1977, Professor Chappell was Director of the Law, Justice and Study Centre of Battelle Memorial Institute in Washington. For the past few years he has been teaching at the Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada, where he was Director of the School of Criminology between 1982 and 1984. Professor Chappell was a full-time member of the ALRC from September 1978 to December 1979. He was Commissioner in Charge of the Division which produced an Interim Report: Sentencing of Federal Offenders (ALRC 15) and a member of the Divisions on Aboriginal Customary Law and Child Welfare.

Administrative Appeals Tribunal

Mr Gary Peter Nicholls has been appointed a full-time senior member of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. The appointment was announced on 29 September 1987. Mr Nicholls, formerly a part-time member of the Tribunal for three years and

a Sydney barrister, has been a part-time lecturer and tutor at the University of Sydney and a part-time member of the Student Assistance Review Tribunal. He was also a member of the National Executive of the Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association during his employment in the Department of Social Security. From 1983 to 1986 he was Director and Chairman of the Marrickville District Hospital and is currently Director of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and Area Health Service and Chairman of the Health Service's Medical Ethics Advisory Committee.

Administrative Review Council

On 29 September 1987 the Attorney-General announced three new appointments to the Administrative Review Council. They are Mr Ronald Brown, a senior public servant, Dr William Creighton, a legal officer and Ms Helen Vorrath, a computer and business management consultant. Mr Brown is the Secretary of the Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs. He formerly held senior offices in the Special Broadcasting Service and the Department of Social Security. He holds a Diploma of Social Work. Dr Creighton, a legal officer with the Australian Council of Trade Unions is also a Reader in labour law at the University of Melbourne. He has been a member of the Victorian Equal Opportunity Board and the Victorian Occupational Health and Safety Commission. Since 1986 Dr Creighton has been a member of the National Labour Consultative Council Committee on Industrial Legislation. Ms Vorrath, a management consultant, is a consultant to the Victorian Department of Labour and a member of the Victorian Economic Development Corporation. Ms Vorrath is a former member of the Prisons Industries Commission of Victoria, the Technical Standing Committee of the Australian Industrial Research and Development Incentives Board and the

Victorian Technology Advisory Committee. The term of appointment of each new member is for a period of three years. Mr Julian Disney, a former member of the New South Wales Law Reform Commission and a former lecturer at the University of New South Wales, has been re-appointed as a member of the Administrative Review Council. He has been a member of the ARC since 1984 and his term of re-appointment is to commence on 4 October 1987. He is the co-ordinator of the Welfare Rights Centre in Sydney and President of the Australian Council of Social Services.

ALRC

Mr John Basten, a Sydney barrister and part time member of the Commission from April 1986 to April 1987, has been re-appointed a part time member from August 1987 to December 1987. Mr Peter Cashman, a consultant with Slater and Gordon, Solicitors and a part time member of the Commission from April 1986 to April 1987 has been re-appointed a part time member from August 1987 to December 1987. Mr Basten and Mr Cashman together head the reference on Access to the Courts. Professor James Crawford, a full time member of the Commission from 1982 to 1984 and part time member from June 1984 to June 1987, has been re-appointed a part time member from August 1987 to March 1988. Professor Crawford, who is Challis Professor of International Law at the University of Sydney, heads the Commission's reference on Admiralty law. Professor Crawford headed the references on Foreign State Immunity and Aboriginal Customary Laws, producing the reports: Foreign State Immunity (ALRC 24) and The Recognition of Aboriginal Customary Laws (ALRC 31). The Admiralty Division has already reported on one aspect of the reference. Its report Civil Admiralty Jurisdiction (ALRC 33) was tabled in federal Parliament in December 1986 Professor Richard Harding, a