

avenue for criticism is removed (*NSW Hansard*, 31 August 1988, 964).

■ *medical treatment for the dying*. The last issue of *Reform* contained an article on a discussion paper issued by the WALRC, *Medical Treatment for the Dying* (1988] *Reform* 154). *The Northern Territory News* reported on 12 October 1988 that the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly had passed a Bill to 'allow people whose death is imminent and inevitable to direct doctors to stop extraordinary medical measures being taken'. According to the report, drafts of the legislation had been circulated to church representatives by the Northern Territory Attorney-General, Mr Manzie, who said 'he had received no objections'. The newspaper report says that 'the Natural Death Bill is based on similar legislation in South Australia and provides a system of certificates which may be filled out by any people over 18 years old — and of sound mind — stating their wishes. The certificates must be witnessed by two adults other than the person's doctor'. According to the report 'the Attorney-General, Mr Daryl Manzie, said the Bill clearly defined that death must be imminent and that there could be no reasonable prospect of permanent or temporary recovery. He said the Bill did not authorise any act which caused or accelerated death as distinct from an act which permitted the process of dying naturally'.

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letter to the editor

Peter Conran, Secretary of the Department of Law in the Northern Territory writes:

In your article on recent amendments to the Northern Territory Police Administration Act which appeared in the April edition of *Reform*, you referred to the work of various reform commissions and inquiries in recent years.

I note that in reference to the Review of Commonwealth Criminal Law you quoted

from p25 of that report. I note also you ended your quote mid-sentence. The remaining words '... , and the question arises whether police officers should be given power to detain an arrested person for a specified period, or for a reasonable time.' I consider such an omission detracts from your appraisal of the amendments, bearing in mind the 'reasonable time' criteria used in Northern Territory legislation.

As the Commission knows, the Northern Territory Police Force has, perhaps more than any other force in Australia, made extensive use of video and tape recordings in the handling of major crime. Such a practice has been of considerable benefit in the investigation of such crime. Further, the Commission is well aware of the application of the Anunga Rules in the Territory and their effect on the admissibility of confessional evidence from Aborigines. I consider it unfortunate your report did not include such information in the analysis of the Territory legislation. In my opinion the information is clearly relevant.

For your information, I understand a formalised pilot program has been commenced in which certain police units in Alice Springs, Katherine and Darwin are, whenever possible, conducting interviews with suspects by way of video or tape recorder. Amongst other things, the scheme is designed to test the effectiveness of equipment (varying types are being used), identify practical difficulties before the program is adopted on a wider basis, and to further train police officers in the use of such equipment.

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Sir Laurence Street KCMG, K St J.

The retirement of Sir Laurence Street, Chief Justice of New South Wales since 1974 was announced in August 1988. Sir Laurence is due to retire on 1 November 1988. Sir Laurence has been Chief Justice of New South Wales since June 1974 and a Judge of the Supreme Court since 1965. He has also served as the Lieutenant-Governor of New South