

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

Wales since 1974. Both his father and his grandfather were also Chief Justices of New South Wales. Sir Laurence graduated from the University of Sydney with the degree of Bachelor of Laws with honours and was admitted to the New South Wales Bar in 1951. As a barrister, he had an extensive practice in all jurisdictions and a large practice in bankruptcy. He took silk in 1963. He is Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Institute of Criminology, Sydney University and helped establish the Australian Commercial Disputes Centre.

Mr AM Gleeson, QC, AO, Chief Justice Elect.

It was also announced in August 1988 that Mr Anthony Gleeson, QC, AO would succeed Sir Laurence Street as Chief Justice of New South Wales following Sir Laurence's retirement from that office on 1 November 1988. Mr Gleeson graduated from the University of Sydney with the degree of Bachelor of Laws with honours and was admitted to the New South Wales Bar in 1963. He took silk in 1974 at 36 years of age. He was President of the New South Wales Bar Association from 1984 to 1986 and was created an officer of the Order of Australia in 1986, for service to the law.

Director of Public Prosecutions

Senator Tate, Minister for Justice, announced recently that federal Cabinet had approved the appointment of Mark Weinberg QC as the next Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. The appointment is expected to commence on November 7 and go for three years. Mr Weinberg was described by the Minister as an eminent lawyer with an extensive background in private practice and a distinguished academic career. Senator Tate said the Commonwealth had been fortunate in securing the services of Mr Weinberg as the second DPP 'In addition to a distinguished academic career, Mr Weinberg had had an extensive private practice in criminal law at the Bar since 1974, devoting himself entirely to his work at the Bar since 1985.'. 'His practice has had a significant pro-

portion of crime and crime-related forensic work, including fraud, narcotics and extradition, all of which are significant areas of Commonwealth criminal justice interest.'

Mr BE Thornton

A new President for the Law Society of New South Wales has been elected by its council. He is Mr Brian Thornton, a Senior Partner of the Sydney Firm Freehill, Hollingdale and Page. Mr Thornton graduated in law from Sydney University in 1961 and was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales in 1962. He became a partner at Freehill, Hollingdale and Page in 1965 where he has specialised in commercial real estate, conveyancing and finance. Mr Thornton has been a member of the Management Committee of the College of Law since 1987 and is currently a member of the Law Council of Australia. He was Treasurer of the Law Society of New South Wales in 1986-7 and Senior Vice President in 1987-88. He has been a member of the Council of the Law Society since 1981.

ALRC

Vaughan Thompson, a Law Reform Officer who worked on the Admiralty and Sentencing references, left the Commission's staff on 30 September 1988. He has joined the staff of the South Australian Parliamentary Counsel's Office. Mr Chris Peters has been seconded from the Office of the Australian Government Solicitor in Sydney to assist with the Customs reference for eight months.

Manitoba Law Reform Commission

Last December the Government of Manitoba announced its intention to wind down the operation of the Commission during the forthcoming year, resulting in its abolition by April 1989. However, since that time, an election has been held and the new administration reinstated the Commission at the end of July 1988. The following members were appointed on a part-time basis for one year terms: Prof Clifford HC Edwards QC as Chairman, Prof John C Irvine, Hon Gerald O Jewers, Ms Eleanor R Dawson and Hon

Pearl K McGonigal. The day-to-day operations of the Commission are administered by the Director of Legal Research, Jeffrey A Schnoor, and the Administrative Officer, Suzanne Pelletier. The research staff will be returned to its full complement.

NSWLRC

Three part-time members of the Commission, Mr JLR Davis, the Honourable Mr Justice Andrew Rogers, and Mr Ronald Sackville, have been re-appointed until December 1988. Ms Rosemary Chandler has joined the Commission's staff on secondment from the Legislative Policy and Research Division of the Attorney-General's Department. Ms Chandler is working on the Commission's Assurance Fund reference. Mr Ian Collie, a legal research consultant, has left the Commission to pursue his studies at the College of Law. During his time at the Commission he assisted with the Artificial Conception reference, and with projects being undertaken within the Community Law Reform Program. Mr John McMillan, the Commission's Secretary, has left to take up an appointment as Secretary to the Royal Commission into the former Chelmsford Private Hospital and Mental Health Services in NSW. Ms Gail Morgan, a legal officer, has resigned to enter private practice. While Ms Morgan's principal involvement was with the Artificial Conception reference, she had recently undertaken research for the Alternative Dispute Resolution reference. Mr Kimber Swan, a legal officer working principally on the Contribution reference, has been promoted to senior legal officer.

NTLRC

Mr Peter Conran has been appointed Secretary of the Department of Law and thereby becomes a member of the Committee. Mr Conran had been a member of the Committee from September 1985 to December 1986. Mr Trevor Riley, a barrister in private practice, has resigned from the Committee.

WALRC

On 21 August 1988 Ms ME Rayner was

elected Chairman of the Commission for a period of one year.

TASLRC

An article on The Honourable Mr Justice Cosgrove who has accepted a three year appointment to the position of Law Reform Commissioner in Tasmania, appeared in the July 1988 issue of *Reform* ([1988] *Reform* 162). The Commissioner has received four new references and will continue two outstanding references originally made to the Tasmanian Law Reform Commission. The new references are a standing reference on Criminal Law and Procedure, a standing reference on Civil Procedure, a reference on Shopping Centre Leases and a reference to investigate the application in Tasmania of the Australian Law Reform Commission Draft Evidence Bill. The outstanding references from the Tasmanian Law Reform Commission are Child Witnesses and the Defences of Insanity, Automatism and Intoxication under the Tasmanian Criminal Code. Justice Cosgrove's assistant is Ms Terese Henning. His associate is Mr Ron Sonners.

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publications

Australia

ALRC

- Report on Sentencing, 1988, No44 — tabled 25 August 1988.
- Discussion Paper on Product Liability, 1988, DP34.
- Product Liability Research Paper on Product Liability Laws and Policies, 1988, RP1.

NSWLRC

- Report on In Vitro Fertilization, 1988, LRC 58.
- Discussion Paper on Surrogate Motherhood, 1988, DP18.