

working for the Director of Public Prosecutions in Sydney. The Commission's Administrative/Finance Officer, Mr Bill Looyen, has been seconded to the Australian Securities Commission to assist them in devising and installing systems for financial management. So far as the ALRC can tell, the money is still all there. Mr Peter Harrigan, an accountant who holds the Degree of Bachelor of Commerce and an Associateship in Local Government Administration, has been appointed for the period of Bill Looyen's secondment. Louise Levido has been appointed as the Commission's Library Officer and Michelle Clarke has been appointed a temporary Librarian whilst Joanna Longley is on long service leave overseas.

*new south wales law reform commission.* Ms Leanne O'Shannessy has left the Commission on a 12 month secondment to the Cabinet Office. Ms O'Shannessy began work at the Commission in June 1986 and was involved in a number of reference under the Community Law Reform Program, the Artificial Conception projects on In Vitro Fertilisation and Surrogate Motherhood, the reference on the Jurisdiction of Local Courts over Foreign Land, and that on Wills for People Lacking Will-Making Capacity. Mrs Judy Maynard is on leave from the Commission and is currently living in Boston in the USA: her work has been on the Neighbour and Neighbour reference under the Community Law Reform Program. Ms Rosemary Chandler left the Commission in August 1989 to enter private practice as a solicitor. Ms Chandler was seconded to the Commission to work on the reference on Torrens Title: State Guarantee of Title and the Assurance Fund.

*law reform commission of victoria.* Ms Jude Wallace has been appointed Deputy Chairperson of the VLRC. Ms Eve Grim has been appointed to the Commission's staff. Prior to her appointment she

worked as a lawyer with the Victorian Law Institute. Mr Murray Raff has left the Commission's staff. Senior Sergeant Tim Cartwright has been seconded to the Commission's staff from the Victorian Police.

## areas of law currently under review

### administrative law

#### NTLRC

- *Administrative Appeals.* DP on Appeals from Administrative Decisions: Appellate Structure is being considered by the Committee. Due for release later 1989.

#### ARC

- *Access to administrative review.* Submission to the National Legal Aid Advisory Committee.
- *Multiculturalism and Commonwealth Decision-Making and Grievance Procedures:* Setting up 18 month project in Melbourne.
- *Review of the AD(JR) Act:* Discussion Paper on requests for statements of reasons to be circulated in the near future.
- *Subordinate and intermediate tribunals:* arrangements in train for conference later this year with these tribunals.
- *Broadcasting.* Discussion Papers on review issues with regard to broadcasting and report in preparation.
- *Informal rule-making.* Proceedings of Conference being collated.

## WALRC

- *Administration Act*. WIH on DP.

## Admiralty

### ALRC

- *Admiralty*. WIH on report on Criminal Admiralty Jurisdiction.

## Attorney

### VLRC

- *Enduring Powers of Attorney*. DP in progress.

## Births, deaths and marriages

### NSWLRC

- *Names: Registration and Certification of Births and Deaths*. Report completed and awaiting tabling by the Attorney-General.

## WALRC

- *Wills: Marriage and Divorce*. DP in preparation.

## By-laws and regulations

### VLCC

- *Subordinate Legislation*. The Committee has considered up to SR 158/89.

## Civil rights

### VLRC

- *Review of the Equal Opportunity Act, 1989*. DP has been issued. Report in progress.

## H of R (Legal and Const. Affairs)

- *Equal Opportunity and Equal Status for Australian Women*. Inquiry has been advertised and submissions invited.

## Companies

### H of R (Legal and Const. Affairs)

- *Insider Trading and Other Forms of Market Manipulation*. Schedule of public hearings completed on the insider trading aspects of the terms of reference. Report drafting commenced.

### Sen (Legal and Const. Affairs)

- *Social and Fiduciary Duties and Responsibilities of Company Directors*. Public hearings have been held. Report before Committee.

## QLRC

- *Limited Liability Partnerships*. WIH.

## Conflict of laws

### ALRC

- *Choice of Laws*. IP released.

## Constitutional law

### Sen (Legal and Const. Affairs)

- *Shield of the Crown*. Receiving submissions.

### VLCC

- *Constitution Act 1975*. New reference relating to legislation which alters the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

## Courts and judges

Sen (Legal and Const. Affairs)

- *Cost of Justice*. Receiving submissions.

VLRC

- *Costs in the Court*. New reference.

NSWLRC

- *Alternative Dispute Resolution*. IP prepared.
- *Jurisdiction of Local Courts over Foreign Land*. Report to be published.

VLCC

- *Delays in Courts*. NFA delayed.

WALRC

- *Payment of Witnesses in Civil Proceedings*. Report submitted July 1989.

Credit

VLRC

- *Credit Act*. Plain English Style Draft Credit Bill 1989 undergoing consultation.

**Criminal Law and Procedure**

NSWLRC

- *Police Powers of Arrest and Detention*. Report nearing completion.
- *Contempt of Court*. WIH.

TasLRC

- *Criminal Code s 332 — Alternative Verdicts*. WIH
- *Criminal Code s 157(1)(c) — Murder*. Report completed and forwarded to Attorney-General.
- *Compulsory Identification Parades*. WIH.
- *Regulations relating to the Refrigeration etc of Blood taken for Blood Alcohol Tests*. Report forwarded to Attorney-General.
- *Criminal Code s 268 — Arson*. Recommendations have been forwarded to Attorney-General.
- *Special Juries in Criminal Trials*. Report completed and forwarded to Attorney-General.
- *Settling Appeal Books (Court of Criminal Appeal)*. Report forwarded to Attorney-General.
- *Criminal Code s 252A — Dishonestly Obtain a Financial Advantage*. Report forwarded to Attorney-General.
- *Alternative methods of trial in complex criminal cases*. Discussion Paper circulated and report nearing completion.

VLRC

- *Offensive weapons*. Report completed.
- *Homicide*. WIH.
- *Insanity and Automatism*. Mental Malfunction and Criminal Responsibility DP completed. Report in progress.

## WALRC

- *Criminal Process and Mental Disorder*. Work on report recommencing. The Commission will be considering the recommendations contained in the report of the Interdepartmental Committee on the Treatment of Mentally Disordered Offenders.
- *Police Act Offences*. DP published June 1989. Closing date for submissions is 6 October.

## Customs and excise

### ALRC

- *Customs*. DP on Licencing of Warehouses and Depots released. WIH on DP on Enforcement — Seizure and Forfeiture, Customs Prosecutions and the mental element of offences.

## Damages

### ALRC

- *Pre-Judgment Interest on Damages*. WIH.

## NSWLRC

- *Contribution among Wrongdoers Responsible for the Same Damage*. WIH.

## Debts

Sen (Legal and Const. Affairs)

- *Debt Recovery under the Social Security Act and Veterans' Entitlements Act*. Receiving submissions.

## Discrimination

### ALRC

- *Multiculturalism*. Preliminary planning and consultation is proceeding.

### VLRC

- *Equal Opportunity Act Review*. Report in progress.

### WALRC

- *Incitement to Racial Hatred*. IP published May 1989. Report due October 1989.

## Evidence

### ALRC

- *Children's Evidence*. DP released. ACT Ordinance proclaimed 23 July 1987. Evaluation of project will be conducted over the next 12 months.
- *Guardianship and Management of Property*. Report about to be released.

### TasLRC

- *ALRC — Draft Evidence Bill*. NFA until Bills prepared by Commonwealth and NSW Attorney-General's Departments.
- *Child Witnesses*. Draft report circulated.

### WALRC

- *Evidence of Children and Other Vulnerable Witnesses*. WIH on DP.

## Infants and children

### ALRC

- *Children's Evidence*. DP released. ACT Ordinance proclaimed 23 July 1987. Evaluation of project will be conducted over the next 12 months.

### TasLRC

- *Child Witnesses*. Draft report circulated.

### WALRC

- *Evidence of Children and Other Vulnerable Witnesses*. WIH on DP.
- *Medical Treatment for Minors*. WIH on report.

## Intellectual property

### ARC

- *Intellectual Property*. DP in preparation.

## International law

### H of R (Legal and Const. Affairs)

- *Legal Regimes of Australia's External Territories and Jervis Bay*. Public Hearings continue.

## Landlord and tenant

### TasLRC

- *Shopping Centre Leases*. NFA.

## Medicine and the law

### ALRC, NSWLRC, VLRC

- *Informed Consent to Medical Treatment*. Report tabled.

### VLRC

- *Genetic Manipulation*. Report tabled 13 September 1989.

### WALRC

- *Medical Treatment for the Dying*. WIH on report.
- *Medical Treatment for Minors*. WIH on report.
- *Confidentiality of Medical Records and Medical Research*. Report in preparation.

### ARC

- *Health and Welfare*. DP on review issues and draft report on review of decisions involving assessment of therapeutic products.

## Mental illness

### ALRC

- *Guardianship and Management of Property*. Report about to be released.

### NSWLRC

- *Wills for People Lacking Will-Making Capacity*. IP released.

## TasLRC

- *Insanity, Intoxication and Automatism under the Tasmanian Criminal Code*. Report completed and forwarded to Attorney-General.

## WALRC

- *Criminal Process and Mental Disorder*. Work on report recommencing. The Commission will be considering the recommendations contained in the report of the Interdepartmental Committee on the Treatment of Mentally Disordered Offenders.

## Perpetuities and accumulations

### NTLRC

- *Rules Against Perpetuities and Accumulations*. WIH. Report is expected by February next year.

## Police

### NSWLRC

- *Police Powers of Arrest and Detention*. Report nearing completion.

### TasLRC

- *Police Powers of Interrogation following Arrest*. Draft report circulated. Final report nearing completion.

### VLRC

- *Police Standing Orders*. Plain English. WIH.

## WALRC

- *Police Act Offences*. DP published June 1989; closing date for submissions is 6 October.

## Privacy

### VLCC

- *Use of Action for Breach of Confidence as a Means of Protecting Personal Privacy*. Written submissions are still being received from interested persons and organisations and are currently being examined by the committee. Public hearings have now commenced. A report is not expected until early next year.

- *Freedom of Information Act 1982*. Public hearings have concluded. Committee is presently examining all evidence received and has commenced deliberations on its draft report.

## Product liability

### ALRC, VLRC

- *Product Liability*. Report was tabled in Federal Parliament on 15 August, 1989. Question of economic and insurance impact referred to Industry Commission.

## Real property and conveyancing

### NSWLRC

- *Jurisdiction of Local Courts over Foreign Land*. Report to be published.
- *Dividing Fences*. Report released.
- *The Rule in Bain v Fothergill*. Draft Report under consideration.

- *Torrens Title; Compensation for Loss and the Assurance Fund*. DP (in conjunction with VLRC) issued. IP (by NSWLRC) to be published.

## QLRC

- *Real Property Acts*. WIH.
- *Property Laws Acts*. WIH.

## VLRC

- *Trusts*. WIH on DP.
- *Sale of Land Act*. Report completed.
- *Easements and Covenants*. Report in progress.

## Sale of goods

### NSWLRC

- *Sale of Goods*. WIH.

## Sex Discrimination

### H of R (Legal and Const. Affairs)

- *Equal Opportunity and Equal Status for Australian Women*. Inquiry has been advertised and submissions invited.

## Statutes

### VLRC

- *Equal Opportunity Act Review*. DP released. Report in Progress.
- *Obsolete Legislation*. Second report completed.
- *Codes of Practice*. WIH on DP.

- *Legislation format*. Report in progress.
- *Omnibus Bill Procedure*. Report in progress.
- *Plain English Road Safety (Traffic) Regulations*. Report in progress.

## Torts

### NSWLRC

- *Contributions between Persons Responsible for the same Damage*. WIH.
- *Liability of Highway Authorities for Non-repair*. Report tabled by Attorney-General and released.

## Wills

### NSWLRC

- *Wills for Persons Lacking Will-Making Capacity*. DP released.

### WALRC

- *Review of the Administration Act 1903*. WIH on DP.
- *Wills: Marriage and Divorce*. DP in preparation.

## Women's Rights

### H of R (Legal and Const. Affairs)

- *Equal Opportunity and Equal Status for Australian Women*. Inquiry has been advertised and submissions invited.

**Other**

**NSWLRC**

- *Neighbour and Neighbour*. WIH. □

**publications**

**Australia**

**ARC**

- Thirteenth Annual Report: 1988–89, expected to be available shortly.

**ALRC**

- DP on Customs and Excise: Licensing Provisions, 1989, DP 41.
- Report on Product Liability, 1989, ALRC 51.
- Summary of Product Liability Report, 1989, ALRC 51.
- Product Liability RP 2A: Economic Impact of Revised Proposals, June 1989.

**NSWLRC**

- Community Law Reform Program Report on Liability of Highway Authorities for Non-repair, 1988, LRC 55.
- Community Law Reform Program Report on Dividing Fences, 1988, LRC 59.
- Community Law Reform Program Discussion Paper on Wills for Persons Lacking Will-Making Capacity, 1989, DP 20.

- Discussion Paper on Torrens Title: compensation for loss and the Assurance Fund, 1989, DP 19 (Joint DP with VLRC).

**VLCC**

- Fifteenth Report to Parliament on Subordinate Legislation Public Service (Amendment) Regulations (No 8) 1988.

**VLRC**

- Report on Sale of Land, June 1989, No 20.
- Report on Public Drunkenness, June 1989, No 25.
- ✓ • Report on Genetic Manipulation, June 1989, No 26.
- Torrens title: compensation for loss, June 1989, DP 16 (in conjunction with NSWLRC).

**WALRC**

- Report on Payment of Witnesses in Civil Proceedings, Project 83.
- Discussion Paper on Police Act Offences, 1989, Project 85.
- Issues Paper on Incitement to Racial Hatred, 1989, Project 86.

**A-G's (NSW) Legislation and Policy Division**

- Issues Paper on Tort Liability in New South Wales, August 1989.
- Issues Paper on Limitation of Professional Liability for Financial Loss, August 1989.