

a Bachelor of Jurisprudence and a Bachelor of Laws from Monash University. Heather Armstrong has been appointed a senior law reform officer. She was formerly a law reform officer on the Commission's staff. She is working on the Reference on Product Liability. Heather has a first class Honours Degree in Arts and a Degree in Law from the University of New South Wales. She has completed the course work for a Masters of Law at Sydney University. Janelle Stevens (nee Roberts) has rejoined the Commission's staff as a personal secretary.

Federal Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs

The Australian House of Representatives' Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs now consists of the following Members: Mr AG Griffiths, Chairman; Mr PM Ruddock, Deputy Chairman; Hon AE Adermann, Mr DE Charles, Mr PR Cleeland, Mr DJ Kerr, Mr PJ McGauran, Hon JC Moore, Mr WL Smith, Hon GGD Scholes, Mr RE Tickner, Mr KW Wright. The Secretary of the Committee is Mr Jon Stanhope. The Committee's current inquiries are listed in 'what's going on in the lrc's' in this issue.

VLRC

The Victorian Law Reform Commission has three new researchers on its staff. They are Mark Duckworth, Linda Weatherhead and John Groningen. Mark Duckworth is on secondment from the Victorian Public Service Board. He is a Barrister and Solicitor and a Melbourne City Councillor. Linda Weatherhead has been working with the Consumer Credit Service and has also been involved in community legal work. John Groningen is a criminologist on secondment to the VLRC. He was an adviser to the Victorian Attorney-General on criminal justice.

WALRC

Ann Blake commenced as a research officer on the staff of the Western Australian Law Re-

form Commission in February. She has been appointed for a period of three years.

QLRC

The Hon Mr Justice GN Williams, who has served on the Queensland Law Reform Commission as a part-time Commissioner since 1976, retired from the Commission in March 1989. The Hon Mr Justice RE Cooper has been reappointed to the Commission after resignation upon his recent appointment to the Supreme Court of Queensland. He has been appointed Deputy Chairman.

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areas of law currently under review

Administrative law

NTLRC *Administrative Appeals*. Work in hand (WIH).

ARC *Pharmaceutical Benefits Incentive Payment Rules 1988*. Letters of advice provided to the A-G.

Draft Ordinance for the Proposed ACT Vocational Training Authority. Letters of advice provided to the A-G.

Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Bill 1989. Letters of advice provided to the A-G.

Draft Ordinances in the Administrative Law Package for ACT Self Government. Letters of advice provided to the A-G.

Recommendations of the Veterans' Entitlements Act Monitoring Committee. Letters of advice provided to the A-G.

Access to Administrative Review. Following the series of meetings with senior departmental staff in late 1988, the Council decided to focus on the role of information and advisory services for the next stage of its access project. Preliminary work is under way.

Review of the AD(JR) Act. Preliminary work has commenced on the next stage of this project, prior to preparation of a DP on statements of reasons under the *AD(JR) Act*.

WALRC *Review of the Administration Act 1903.* WIH on new reference.

Admiralty

ALRC *Admiralty.* WIH on report on the Criminal Admiralty Jurisdiction

Births, deaths and marriages

NSWLRC *Registration and Certification of Births and Deaths.* Report completed.

By-laws and regulations

VLCC *Subordinate Legislation.* The Committee has considered up to SR 6/1989

Charities

VLCC *Law Relating to Charitable Trusts in Victoria.* Draft report under consideration. Report should be tabled in May.

Public Liability of Voluntary Organisations. Consideration of the draft report has been completed. Due for presentation to Parliament in April.

Civil rights

VCCL *Australian Constitutional Convention and Constitutional Commission.* WIH.

VLRC *Equal Opportunity Act Review.* WIH on DP

Companies

H of R *Inquiry into Mergers, Takeovers and Monopolies.* WIH. *Inquiry into Insider Trading and Other Forms of Market Manipulation.* WIH on new reference.

Sen *Social and Fiduciary Duties and Responsibilities of Company Directors.* Public hearings have been held. WIH on draft report.

Conflict of laws

ALRC *Choice of laws.* IP in preparation. Due for release in June.

Contempt of court

NSWLRC *Criminal Procedure.* Contempt of Court. WIH

Courts and judges

NSWLRC *Alternative Dispute Resolution.* IP prepared.

VLCC *Delays in Courts.* WIH

WALRC *Payment of Witnesses in Civil Proceedings.* WIH on report

Credit

VLRC *Credit Act.* WIH on preliminary report.

WALRC *Credit Reporting.* WIH on DP.

Criminal law

RCCL Interim Report on Detention before Charge, 1989.

WALRC *Criminal Process and Mental Disorders*. WIH on report.

Criminal procedure

NSWLRC *Criminal Procedure: Police Powers of Detention and Questioning*. Report nearing completion.
Criminal Procedure: Contempt of Court. WIH.

TasLRC *Criminal Law and Procedure. Criminal Code s 332, Alternative Verdicts*. WIH.

Criminal Code s 157(1)(c), Murder. Draft report completed and circulated for comment.

Regulations relating to the Refrigeration etc of Blood taken for Blood Alcohol Tests. WIH on draft report.

Special Juries in Criminal Trials. Draft report completed and circulated for comment.

Settling Appeals Books — Court of Criminal Appeal. WIH.

Criminal Code s 252A — Dishonestly obtain a Financial Advantage. Report forwarded to A-G.

VLRC *Homicide*. WIH on draft report.
Insanity and Automatism. WIH.

Customs and excise

ALRC *Customs*. 3 papers have been released for consultation. Further papers on passenger processing, and customs control of cargo from the time of importation until release into home consumption are due to be issued in May and June.

Discussion Paper on Customs and Excise: Draft Offshore Provisions, 1989, DP 35.

Discussion Paper on Customs and Excise: Administration Provisions, 1989, DP 36.

Customs and Excise Research Paper on Customs and Excise: Offshore Application, 1989, RP 1.

Damages

ALRC *Pre-judgment interest on Damages*. WIH.

VLRC *Penalties and Liquidated Damages*. WIH on DP.

Discrimination

WALRC *Incitement to Racial Hatred*. IP close to completion.

Evidence

TasLRC *Australian Law Reform Commission Draft Evidence Bill*. Recommendations forwarded to the Attorney-General.

Provisions in the Evidence Act Governing the Competence and Compellability of Spouses to give Evidence. Recommendation made that no changes are made to the present law.

Infants and children

ALRC *Guardianship and Management of Property*. WIH.
Childrens Evidence. WIH.

TasLRC *Child Witnesses*. WIH on report.

WALRC *Medical Treatment of Minors* Comments on DP being considered.

Evidence of Children and other Vulnerable Witnesses. WIH on new reference

Guardianship and Management of Property. WIH.

International law

H of R *Inquiry into the Legal Regimes of Australia's External Territories.* WIH.

NSWLRC *Wills for the Mentally Incapable.* WIH.

TasLRC *Insanity, Intoxication and Automatism under the Tasmanian Criminal Code.* WIH

Landlord and tenant

TasLRC *Shopping Centre Leases.* WIH

WALRC *Criminal Process and Mental Disorders.* WIH on report.

Liens

NSWLRC *Disposal of Uncollected Goods.* Report completed.

Perpetuities and accumulations

NTLRC *Rules Against Perpetuities and Accumulations.* WIH on report.

Medicine and the law

ALRC *Informed Consent to Medical Treatment.* WIH on joint reference.

Police

NSWLRC *Surrogate Motherhood.* Report No. 60 released.
Informed Consent to Medical Treatment. WIH on joint reference.

NSWLRC *Police Powers of Detention and Questioning.* Report nearing completion.

TasLRC *Police Powers of Interrogation following Arrest.* WIH.

VLRC *Informed Consent to Medical Treatment.* Draft report prepared, and circulated.
Genetic Manipulation. WIH.

VLRC *Police Standing Orders.* WIH.

Police offences

WALRC *Police Act Offences.* DP nearing completion.

WALRC *Medical Treatment for Minors.* DP issued and comments are being considered.
Medical Treatment of the Dying. WIH on report.
Confidentiality of Medical Records and Medical Research. DP has been issued.

Privacy

VLCC *Use of Action for Breach of Confidence as a means of Protecting Personal Privacy.* WIH on DP. Due for release at the end of April.
Freedom of Information Act 1982. Written submissions are still being received. Public hearings commenced on April 12.

Mental illness

ALRC *Enduring Powers of Attorney.* Report No. 47 tabled on April 6, 1989.

Product liability

- ALRC *Product Liability*. Seminars will be held in May with interested groups.
Discussion Paper on *Product Liability: Proposed Legislation*, 1989, DP 37.
Product Liability Research Paper on *Product Liability: Economic Impacts*, 1989, RP 2.
Product Liability Research Paper on *Product Liability: Remedies and Enforcement*, 1989, RP 5.

VLRC *Product Liability*. WIH on joint reference.

Professions

VLRC Reports on *Sheep Owners Protection Act* (No. 3) and *Process Servers and Commercial Agents* (No. 4) in the Occupational Regulation Series have been released.

Real property and conveyancing

NSWLRC *Assurance Fund*. IP completed.
Dividing Fences. Report completed.
The Rule in Bain and Fothergill. WIH.

QLRC *Real Property Acts*. WIH

VLRC *Easements and Covenants*. DP 15 has been released.
Trusts. WIH on DP.
Sale of Land Act. WIH on report.
Insurance. WIH on DP
Priorities. WIH on report.

Sale of goods

NSWLRC *Sale of Goods*. WIH

WALRC *Review of the Sale of Goods Act 1895*. WIH on new reference.

Statutes

VLRC *Equal Opportunity Act Review*. WIH on DP.
Obsolete Legislation. WIH on report.
Codes of Practice. WIH on DP.
Police Standing Orders. WIH.

WALRC *Imperial Statutes in Force in WA*. Report in preparation.

Torts

NSWLRC *Contribution between Persons Liable for the Same Damage*. WIH

TasLRC *Civil Procedure*. Recommended that no further action be taken.

Wills

NSWLRC *Wills for the Mentally Incapable*. WIH.

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

Other

NSWLRC *Neighbour and Neighbour*. WIH

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publications

Australia

ALRC

- Report on Community Law Reform for the Australian Capital Territory: Third Report: Enduring Powers of Attorney, 1988, No 47.
- Annual Report 1988, 1988, No 49.
- Discussion Paper on Customs and Excise: Draft Offshore Provisions, 1989, DP 35.