

Law reform in Queensland

Although wide public advertising has in the past been undertaken to identify areas where the public perceives a need for reform in the law, those attempts have been unproductive. It seems that it will lie with governments and the Commission to identify the need for, and set the priorities in, law reform in Queensland.

*Former QLRC Deputy Chairman,
Justice Richard Cooper commenting
on law reform in Queensland after
the Fitzgerald Report.*

The Queensland Law Reform Commission has been given a new program of law reform by the Queensland Government. The program was devised by the Attorney-General, Dean Wells in consultation with other Cabinet Ministers. It is as follows.

- Examine the law relating to infancy, and, in particular, the civil law capacity of infants.
- Examine the law of vicarious responsibility, with particular reference to:
 - Parent/child relationships;
 - Teacher/pupil relationships;
 - Employer/employee relationships;
 - Adult supervisor/child relationships.
- Examine the law relating to aged persons, with particular reference to declining physical and mental faculties.
- Examine the rights relating to consent to medical procedures by:
 - children;
 - intellectually disabled adults (including consent to sterilisation).
- Examine the rights of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders concerning traditional hunting, fishing and food gathering including the exercise of those rights in national parks.
- Review of the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1950–1989*.
- Review of the *Justices Act 1886–1989* and the *Magistrates Court Act 1921–1989* and examine the desirability of the amalgamation of these two Acts.
- Examine the laws relating to the employment of children.
- Examine the interrelationship between Part IV — Family Provisions — of the *Succession Act 1981–1987*, s 79 (alteration of property interests) of the *Family Law Act 1975* (as amended) and the *Public Trustee Act 1978–1989* regarding the rights and entitlements of a spouse of an incapacitated person.
- Examine the law concerning property rights and other mat-

ters in relation to couples living in de facto relationships.

- Examine the law with respect to matters concerning people with disabilities and in particular:

— *Electoral Act* — Changes needed to facilitate voting by people with disabilities;

— *Education Act* — Education rights of people with disabilities;

— *The Criminal Code* — offences regarding disabled people, eg sex with disabled people with consent;

— *Evidence Act* — Rules re Competency of Witnesses;

— *Mental Health Act*;

— *Intellectually Disabled Citizens Act*;

— *Public Trustee Act* — Re Protection Orders.

- Review of Statute law as requested by the Queensland Law Reform Commission. □

Gobbledygook

"That where, through a link established by means of any system of telephone, audio or audio-visual communication previously approved by the board of directors and made known to the directors for the purpose of any meeting of the board of directors, one or more of the directors absent from the place appointed for the meeting can hear and be heard by not only one another (if more than one) but also directors in attendance present at the meeting, such of those absent directors and the directors in attendance as are able to hear and be heard by one another shall, for the purpose of every provision be taken to be assembled together at a meeting held at that place and all proceedings of those directors conducted with the aid of the link shall be as a valid and effectual as if conducted as a meeting at which all of them were present."

Loretta Re provided the following translation of this extract from an annual general meeting notice paper:

As I was meeting on the air
I met a director who wasn't there.
He wasn't there again today
— Perhaps the lines had gone astray?