

PERSONALIA

ALRC

The Attorney-General has appointed six new part-time Commissioners to the LRC. The Hon Justice John von Doussa of the Federal Court of Australia has been appointed for a four year term until 20 September 1996. The remaining five part-time Commissioners have been appointed for three-year terms, effective from 1 January 1993 until 31 December 1995. They are Professor James Lahore, Professor Bettina Cass, Professor Peter Baume, Professor Rebecca Bailey-Harris and Justice Ian Coleman.

They replace Professor John Goldring, Foundation Dean and Professor Law at the University of Wollongong, who ceased being part-time Commissioner on 31 December 1992; Professor Michael Chesterman, Dean of the Faculty of Law at University of NSW, whose term concluded on 30 September 1992; Mr Jim Armitage whose term ended on 31 December 1992; and Mr Leigh Hall, who finished on 31 December 1992.

On 28 October 1992 the Commission farewelled its Deputy President Mr John Greenwell who, during the course of his five year appointment was Commissioner in charge of the massive review of customs and excise which the Commission reported on in May last year.

Stephen Mason was appointed a full-time member of the Commission on 28 February last year. His term of office ends on 17 February 1997. Until his appointment, Mr Mason was Secretary and Director of Research

for the Commission and, before that its Legislative Draftsman.

Chris Sidoti was appointed a full-time member for five years from 17 February last year. From November 1987 until his appointment he was Secretary of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission and had acted as Race Discrimination Commissioner.

The Commission's principal executive officer, Barry Hunt, has left the Commission after more than 13 years. He joined the Commission in February 1979 as executive officer and was appointed principal executive officer in 1983. He was the editor of *Reform*.

The Commission has appointed a new Secretary, Ms Catherine Watts, who arrived in August and hit the ground running. Ms Watts had been with the Trade Practices Commission since 1981 where, among other things, she was responsible for the operation of the Commission's regional offices around Australia. As Secretary of the Law Reform Commission, Catherine Watts manages the Corporate Services Branch, acts as principal contact with government departments in relation to administrative matters; ensures the Commission meets all its reporting requirements; and advises the President and the Management Committee on the availability of resources.

Andrew Naylor, who began with the Commission in 1991 as a part-time researcher on the Multiculturalism

project, has proved himself indispensable to the Commission through his work on that reference and later on personal property securities. We breathed a sigh of relief when he accepted an offer of appointment as a law reform officer from 5 October 1992.

The Commission now has a full-time Information Technology Manager. Oleg Ziskin was the consultant from Coopers and Lybrand who supervised the Commission's installation of its entire Apple Macintosh network over a six month period last year. After ironing out kinks in both the system and its users, he applied for and was given a permanent position. He can't say he wasn't warned.

There have been other recent arrivals. Law Reform Officers Alison Orme who is working on the DOHHACS reference (see p 12); and Kim Pettigrew (fresh from Phillips Fox in Melbourne where she specialised in intellectual law, property law and trade practices) joins the Designs team. Senior Law Reform Officer Philip Kellow, who is presently working on the personal property securities reference will join the DOHHACS team in January. Mark Blair, who tore himself away from the Companies and Securities Advisory Committee to give us the benefit of his consultancy skills on the collective investment reference; Paul Cramer, the officer in charge of registry, and Matthew Calandra, administrative assistant in Registry.

There have been departures. Senior Law Reform Officer Kate Hamilton, who worked on the Collective Investments reference, left the Commiss-

ion in November last year to take up a post as compliance manager at Permanent Trustees; and Maryanne

McCarthy, who was assistant legislative counsel, departed in November.

LAW REFORM COMMISSION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Commission celebrates its 25th anniversary on 15 January 1993. Its life began with a Cabinet decision in 1967 setting up the Law Reform Committee and it commenced operations in January 1968. It became a Commission with the Law Reform Commission Act 1972. Over the quarter of a century of its existence the Commission has submitted 81 Reports and issued 78 Working or Discussion Papers. Of the 75 Reports recommending legislative change, 49 have been implemented.

Michael Pendleton has been reappointed Chairman of the Commission for a further six months from November 1992. Mr Pendleton was a part-time member of the Commission since 1991 and Associate Professor of Law at Murdoch University.

Mr Wayne Briscoe, Senior Research Officer, resigned from the Commission's staff in December 1992 on being appointed a full-time member of the Queensland Law Reform Commission. Mr Briscoe, who was formerly Research Director of the Tasmanian Law Reform Commission, has been chiefly responsible for the

WALRC's forthcoming Report on *Professional privilege for confidential communications*. He played an important part in the completion of the Report on *Evidence of children and other vulnerable witnesses* and worked on *Consent to sterilisation of children with disabilities*, originally part of the reference on *Medical treatment for minors*.

Mr Rene Le Miere completed his term of office as part-time private practice member of the Commission in 1992. Mr Le Miere, who had been a member of the Commission since 1987, is a member of the independent bar in Western Australia and a past President of the Law Society of Western Australia.

Ms Carmel McLure was appointed the part-time private practice member of the Commission in October 1992 to replace Mr Le Miere. Ms McLure, a partner in Corrs Chambers Westgarth in Perth, holds honours degrees in law from the Universities of Western Australia and Oxford, and taught at Northwestern University Law School before returning to Perth to enter legal practice.

NSWLRC

Mrs Shirley Lucke left the Commission on 17 December to commence her retirement. Mrs Lucke had been the Chairman's secretary since May 1990. She also acted as the Executive Director's secretary and provided administrative assistance.

Ms Julie Freeman commenced work at the Commission in April 1992 as an administrative officer. She is responsible for desk top publishing and managing the Commission's computer system and is the Commission's graphic design consultant.

Matthew Burgess worked on a short-term consultancy basis with the Commission in 1991. Before that he worked for the English Law Commission and he has returned to London to take up employment with a city law firm.

LAW REFORM IN VICTORIA

The Victorian Parliament's Legal and Constitutional Committee has been replaced by two new committees: the Law Reform Committee and the Scrutiny of Bills and Regulations Committee. Mr James Guest MLC has been elected Chairman of the Law Reform Committee. The Committee has no inquiries in progress except to assess the state and progress of law reform in Victoria including the unfinished business of the VLRC. (See *Death of a Commission* p 29.) The Committee has very wide terms of reference within the area of legal and constitutional reform and the administration of justice. The Executive Officer of the Law Reform Committee is Mark Roberts. Helen Roberts is the Executive Officer of the Scrutiny Committee.

QLD LAW REFORM COMMISSION

The Commission has a new Deputy Chairperson. Her Honour Judge Helen O'Sullivan took over from Mr RS O'Regan QC, who resigned in November to take up his appointment as Chairman of the Criminal Justice Commission. His predecessor as Deputy Chairman, Mr Pat Keane QC, resigned earlier in the year to take up an appointment as State Solicitor-General.

Two full-time Commissioners, Ms C Richards and Ms L Willmott, have both resigned.

TASMANIAN LAW REFORM COMMISSION

Mr Jim Connolly, the Assistant to the Tasmanian Law Reform Commissioner, is leaving in February to take up a position with the Crown Prosecution Service in London. His replacement will be announced shortly.

LAW REFORM COMMISSION OF NOVA SCOTIA

This Commission is back in business. Its address is 8th floor, Garrison Place, 1526 Dresden Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2K2. The President is Professor William Charles QC and the Executive Director is Professor Moira McConnell.
