

From the Editor...

In January 1976, Reform was first published as a 16-page bulletin, with the aim of helping law reform to "escape irrelevance ... (by going) out to the society it serves". In its various formats, Reform has always sought to provide that bridge between the legal profession and the general community, by supplying a forum for high quality debate on issues of law reform in an easy-to-read format.

That aim has also driven the latest changes to the journal. For the past six months, the team behind Reform has sought to redefine its place in Australia's legal publishing landscape. In addition to a bold new look, we have reconsidered its content to take account of subscribers' views and to better reflect changing trends and community attitudes.

The feedback we have received indicates there is a strong interest in the work of the ALRC and other Australian law reform agencies. Our readers have also expressed a desire for articles discussing broader issues of law reform raised by current events or advances in science and technology. It has become apparent that Reform is not viewed exclusively as a mouthpiece for the Commission, but rather as an important avenue for the debate of significant issues affecting our community and should be better utilised as such.

As a result, Reform now contains a broader cross section of opinion across a diverse range of issues. We have expanded the coverage of ALRC references and looked abroad to draw on international experiences of relevance. The roundup of work of other law reform agencies will remain an important component of Reform and we have also introduced several new features, including book reviews and a guest columnist.

The theme of this edition, *The IT Age: law and information technology*, is a fast moving and fascinating issue with relevance to all sectors of the community. Letters from our readers - whether to express a view on the new look of Reform or its content, or to respond to any of the issues raised by our authors - are welcome.

We look forward to engaging you in discussion.

Michelle Weidenhofer
Editor, Reform



Contributions to Reform are welcome and should be sent to:

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When preparing contributions, please note the following points:

- 1/ Articles can be sent via fax or E-mail or, if submitted on a disc, should be in WordPerfect or Word 6, both for Macintosh or in RTF format. A hard-copy should also be forwarded to the Commission.
- 2/ All articles submitted on paper should be typed in double-space on one side only of A4 paper.
- 3/ The name, address and phone number of the author must be attached to the article.
- 4/ Articles should be between 1000 and 3000 words in length. Shorter articles are welcome.
- 5/ Articles submitted to Reform should be in final form as corrections on proofs will be limited to literal errors or changes necessitated by legal developments.
- 6/ Articles submitted to Reform for publication must be original and not currently under consideration for publication elsewhere, except by prior arrangement.
- 7/ The Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) reserves the right to republish all material on its homepage on the Internet and to use all accepted articles for promotion of the journal.
- 8/ The ALRC reserves the right to edit submitted articles so they conform with Reform's writing style. The Editor will seek to contact contributors to verify changes before publication.

Style

- 1/ All articles must be written in clear, accessible language.
- 2/ Contributors should seek to minimise the use of end-notes. Where possible, citations should be included in the body of the text.
- 3/ All legislation, international instruments, organisations and cases referred to should be clearly identifiable.
- 4/ Gender neutral language should be used.
- 5/ Avoid unnecessary punctuation. Abbreviations should not be followed by a full stop.