
R E G U L A R R E P O R T S

Administrative Review Council

LETTERS OF ADVICE

Since the last issue of Admin Review (January 1987), the Council's letters of advice to the Attorney-General have included the following matters: the awarding of costs by the AAT, AAT review of certain decisions under meat and livestock industry legislation, the functions of Taxation Relief Boards and review of migration decisions.

CURRENT WORK PROGRAM

Customs (anti-dumping). A report was approved by the Council at its meeting on 6 February and was transmitted to the Attorney-General on that date. Arrangements have been made for the printing of the report.

Constitution of the AAT. At the Council's meeting on 3 April, it was decided that further consultation on this matter was necessary. Consequently an issues paper is to be prepared and circulated for comment. It is hoped to arrange a seminar on the matter in early July.

Access to administrative review. Interviews have taken place for the selection of researchers to conduct the social security review officer survey. Questionnaires are being prepared and it is anticipated that the clients of review officers will be surveyed in May-June.

Industry research and development and related legislation. A draft report was considered by a committee on 1 April. It is now being prepared for circulation to interested persons for comment before the final report is prepared.

AAT Task Force. As noted elsewhere in this issue, the Attorney-General has set up a Task Force to review certain aspects of the AAT's procedures. The Council's Secretariat has been engaged in preparing papers for Dr Saunders in connection with the Task Force.

Visitors to the Council. The Attorney-General, the Hon Lionel Bowen, and his Principal Private Secretary, Mr John Broome, attended the February Council meeting, and some useful discussion took place. The Attorney-General referred in particular to the effect budget considerations could have on the implementation of Council recommendations. The Secretary of the Department of Social Security, Mr Derek Volker, attended the April Council meeting. He spoke about the changes anticipated

in the department as a result of the introduction and increasing use of on-line information systems. Statistics on social security appeals supplied by Mr Volker are set out in Administrative Law Watch ([1987] Admin Review 47 et seq).

Administrative Appeals Tribunal

NEW JURISDICTION

Since the last issue of Admin Review new jurisdiction has been conferred on the AAT under the following legislation:

Antarctic Seals Conservation Regulations
Apple and Pear (Conditions of Export) Regulations
Australian Citizenship Amendment Act 1986
Bounty (Books) Act 1986
Bounty (Bed Sheeting) Act 1977
Bounty (High Alloy Steel Products) Act 1983
Bounty (Paper) Act 1979
Bounty (Printed Fabrics) Act 1981
Bounty (Steel Mill Products) Act 1983
Bounty (Textile Yarns) Act 1981
Electricity Ordinance 1971
Fertilisers Subsidy Act 1986
Health Insurance Act 1973
Income Tax Assessment Act 1936
Interstate Road Transport Regulations
National Health Act 1953
National Health (Pharmaceutical Benefits) Regulations
Navigation Act 1912
Patent Attorneys Regulations
Poisons and Narcotic Drugs Ordinance 1978 (A.C.T.)
Subsidy (Cultivation Machines and Equipment) Act 1986
Therapeutic Goods Act 1966
Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1982

In accordance with the recommendation of the Council, jurisdiction has been removed from the Tribunal under the following legislation:

Health Insurance Act 1973
National Health Act 1953

KEY DECISIONS

Deportation order

At [1986] Admin Review 87, note was made of a case concerning a deportation order which had been made against a prisoner who was serving a mandatory life sentence. The order was to take effect on the prisoner's release from gaol, although that was an indeterminate date. The prisoner had served 8 years of his sentence at the time the order was made, and although pursuant to the Crimes (Amendment) Act 1986 (Vic) he was eligible to apply to