

the AAT are a check against the possible misuse of power and should be retained for that reason. However, having regard to the Council's on-going work in this area, the Committee decided not to make any specific recommendations in relation to appeals.

The Department of Transport and Communications is also conducting a review of some aspects of broadcasting. As part of that review the Department proposes to issue a discussion paper for consultation purposes. Some of the issues raised are likely to be relevant to the Council's further consideration of broadcasting matters.

Inquiries concerning this project should be directed to:

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#### ADMIN REVIEW INDEX

The last edition of Admin Review contained an index by subject matter for all volumes up to and including Volume 19. The second half of the index, the case index, is at the end of this edition.

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#### R E G U L A R   R E P O R T S

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#### Administrative Review Council

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#### REPORTS

Report No. 32, The Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act: the Ambit of the Act, was forwarded to the Attorney-General in March 1989. The report recommends that the reforms of the Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act be extended to certain non-statutory decisions made by officers of the Commonwealth and to statutory decisions of the Governor-General. It also recommends repeal of many of the paragraphs of Schedule 1. The recommended changes do not extend the areas of judicial review presently available but merely allow the simpler provisions of the AD(JR) Act to apply to areas currently reviewable under the more complex procedures of general law. The report also proposes that certain limitations on review be written into the Act.

#### LETTERS OF ADVICE

Since the January 1989 issue of Admin Review the Council has provided the Attorney-General with letters of advice on the following issues:

- . review of decisions under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Incentive Payment Rules 1988;
- . draft ordinance for the proposed A.C.T. Vocational Training Authority;
- . the Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Bill 1989.
- . draft ordinances in the administrative law package for A.C.T. self-government; and
- . recommendations of the Veterans' Entitlements Act Monitoring Committee.

#### CURRENT WORK PROGRAM - DEVELOPMENTS

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 discussion paper on statements of reasons under the AD(JR) Act.

Community Services and Health. The Council is pursuing two stages of its examination of decision-making in the Department of Community Services and Health. Stage 1 examines programs involving joint Commonwealth/State funding arrangements using current renegotiations on the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) as a starting point. Stage 2 of the project focusses on Departmental programs involving assessment of products, initially concentrating on therapeutic goods.

Migration. The Council's Migration Committee is currently examining the Migration Legislation Amendment Bill 1989 with regard to the implications of its proposals for a new system of immigration review which is to be 'fair, just, economical, informal and quick'.

Other tribunals. As a first step in determining ways in which the Council might be able to assist the operation of the various intermediate level tribunals, the Council is planning a meeting of the tribunals later in the year and is developing a statistical data base on their activities.

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#### Administrative Appeals Tribunal

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#### NEW JURISDICTION

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

Higher Education Funding Act 1988  
Ozone Protection Act 1989  
Navigation Act 1912 as amended by the Transport  
Legislation Amendment Act 1989