

## Administrative Review Council

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### Reports, submissions and letters of advice

Since the last edition of *Admin Review* the Council has provided:

- a report to the Attorney-General: Report No 34 *Access to Administrative Review by Members of Ethnic Communities*;
- a discussion paper on tribunal procedures for the Commonwealth Tribunals Conference;
- a letter of advice to the Attorney-General on the proposed abolition of the Taxation Relief Board;
- a letter of advice to the Attorney-General on the Fisheries Management Bill 1991; and
- a report to the Fifteenth Australasian Law Reform Agencies Conference.

### Current work program - developments

#### *Community services & health*

The Council is examining a range of decisions made under programs administered by the Commonwealth Department of Health, Housing and Community Services, with a view to recommending the administrative review principles which ought to apply to grants programs made within that portfolio. The release of an issues paper has been deferred.

#### *Intellectual property*

Dr Margaret Allars of the University of Sydney is preparing a consultant's paper on review of patents decisions.

#### *Rule making*

The Council's Rule Making Report is in the final stages and should be sent to the Attorney-General late in 1991.

#### *Multicultural Australia*

The Report has been provided to the Attorney-General and was tabled in the Parliament on 12 September 1991. Note that the focus article in this issue refers to aspects of the Report dealing with a new role for the Ombudsman. In addition, a more comprehensive summary of the Report appears in *Administrative Law Watch* at page [49].

#### *Specialist tribunals*

This project was discussed at [1990] *Admin Review* 54. The current phase of this project is concerned with tribunal procedures. A conference of tribunal members and officers was held in Melbourne on 18 and 19 October 1991. Discussion focused on a paper on procedures prepared by the Council. Work has now commenced on preparation of a draft report.

#### *Government business enterprises*

The Council's newest project examines the extent to which the Commonwealth administrative law package should apply to government business enterprises of different kinds. The principal issue is the extent to which such organisations should remain accountable while still being able to operate effectively in a commercial environment.

The Council plans to circulate an issues paper in the new year and will then undertake a program of consultation before making its final report.

## Administrative Appeals Tribunal

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### New jurisdiction

Since the last edition of *Admin Review* jurisdiction has been conferred on the AAT by the following legislation:

- *Australian Wool Corporation Act 1991*
- *Bounty (Citric Acid) Act 1991*
- *Bounty Legislation Amendment Act 1991*
- *Community Services and Health Legislation Amendment Act 1991*
- *Freedom of Information Amendment Act 1991*
- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Amendment Act 1991*
- *Health Legislation (Pharmaceutical Benefits) Amendment Act 1991*
- *Industrial Relations Legislation Amendment Act 1991*
- *Industry Technology and Commerce Legislation Amendment Act 1991*
- *National Food Authority Act 1991*
- *National Health Amendment Act 1991*
- *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Amendment Act 1991*