

REGULAR REPORTS

Administrative Review Council

Reports, submissions and letters of advice

Since the last issue of *Admin Review* the Council has made submissions to:

- the Attorney-General in relation to the work of the Interdepartmental Committee on implementation of the Council's *Better Decisions* Report;
- the Attorney-General's Department in response to ALRC Report No 75: *Cost Shifting - who pays for litigation*;
- the Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee transmitting Council comments on Anthony Morris QC's further Submission to the Inquiry into the Administrative Review Council;
- the Public Service Commissioner transmitting Council comments on the document entitled *The Public Service Act 1997 - Accountability in a Devolved Management Framework*;
- the Parliamentary Joint Committee of Public Accounts concerning the review of the Public Service Bill 1997;
- the Senate Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances concerning the Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employees)(National Standards) Regulation (Amendment);
- the Senate Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances concerning the Family Law Regulations (Amendment).

The Council has also presented its Twenty-first Annual Report 1996-1997, which was tabled in the Parliament on 30 October 1997.

STOP PRESS

Appeals from the AAT to the Federal Court

This Council Report (No 41) was tabled in the

Parliament in early December. A summary will appear in the next *Admin Review*. Meanwhile if you would like a copy of the Report please contact the Council Secretariat on 02 62475100.

Senate Committee Report on the Role and Functions of the Administrative Review Council

Admin Review 47 reported that the Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee had received a reference from the Senate on 18 September 1996 for inquiry and report on:

The optimal role and function of the ARC and the relationship between the ARC and other relevant bodies including, but not limited to, the Attorney-General's Department, other Commonwealth departments, Commonwealth merits review tribunals, the Australian Law Reform Commission, tertiary institutions, the private sector, and territory and state agencies, with particular reference to:

- (a) the benefit of a separate and permanent administrative law advisory body;
- (b) the membership structure of the ARC;
- (c) the functions and powers of the ARC;
- (d) the effectiveness of the ARC in performing its functions and any obstacles to that effectiveness; and
- (e) the need for any amendment to Part V of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act.

The Senate Committee's report was presented in June 1997. The Committee reached a number of conclusions and made 11 recommendations. Those conclusions and recommendations are as follows.

“Effectiveness of the ARC

The Committee found that it is difficult to identify objective criteria against which to assess