

# NOTES FROM PARLIAMENT

by GREG ROCHE

The following bills were considered at the September sittings of the Legislative Assembly.

All were passed except the Classifications Bill which, at the time of writing, had only reached Committee stage.

Practitioners should also note that the Mutual Recognition (NT) Bill has been introduced.

The bill will, inter alia, allow for virtually automatic admission for barristers and solicitors across Australia.

An application for registration must be granted or refused within one month.

Registration can only be refused on the basis of fraud in the application, or that one's occupation is not an "equivalent occupation" to that interstate [see also *Off Balance*, page 4 -- Ed].

## **WORKHEALTH AMENDMENT BILL (Serial 174)**

The bill gives the Work Health Authority the discretion to stop the convening of a Medical Review Panel once it has received outstanding medical advice. The Panel will also be able to both examine the claimant and review the medical evidence -- there is a view that the Panels can currently only do one or the other.

## **TERRITORY INSURANCE OFFICE AMENDMENT (Serial 176)**

The bill clarifies the relationship between the Chief Executive Officer and the TIO Board. The CEO will now be appointed by the Board rather than the Minister and the CEO's term is now limited to five years. A mechanism for resignation or removal of the CEO (and dismissal of Board members) is inserted.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT BILL (No 2), PLANNING AMENDMENT and CONTROL OF ROADS AMENDMENT (Serials 159, 160 and 161)**

The bills give the Minister for Lo-

cal Government the power to transfer local roads to community councils and makes consequential amendments to give councils powers to make by-laws concerning those roads and close them if desired.

## **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (POWERS AND PRIVILEGES) BILL (Serial 173)**

The bill is a rewrite of the Assembly's powers and privileges. It removes reference to current Assembly powers that are ultra vires and, inter alia, gives the Assembly the power to deal with offences against the Assembly, which are currently dealt with by the courts.

## **CLASSIFICATION OF PUBLICATION AND FILMS AMENDMENT (Serial 169)**

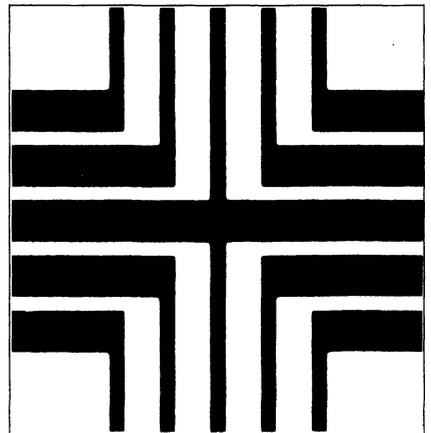
The bill has the following objectives: (1) to ban the production of X-rated and refused classification films; (2) to severely restrict (ban?) the copying of X-rated films; (3) to establish a system of registration of those who can copy; (4) to make possession of child pornography an offence.

## **YULARA TOURIST VILLAGE MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT (No 2) (Serial 172)**

The bill completes the handover of the old Yulara Corporation's municipal powers to the new Community Council and provides for a mechanism for the transfer.

## **COMMERCIAL PASSENGER (ROAD) TRANSPORT AMENDMENT (Serial 181)**

The bill inserts a general offence of operating without a license and clarifies the meaning of "operate" so that employees and volunteers are excluded. The discretion of the Director of Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport to suspend or cancel a licence issued under the Act is widened.



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