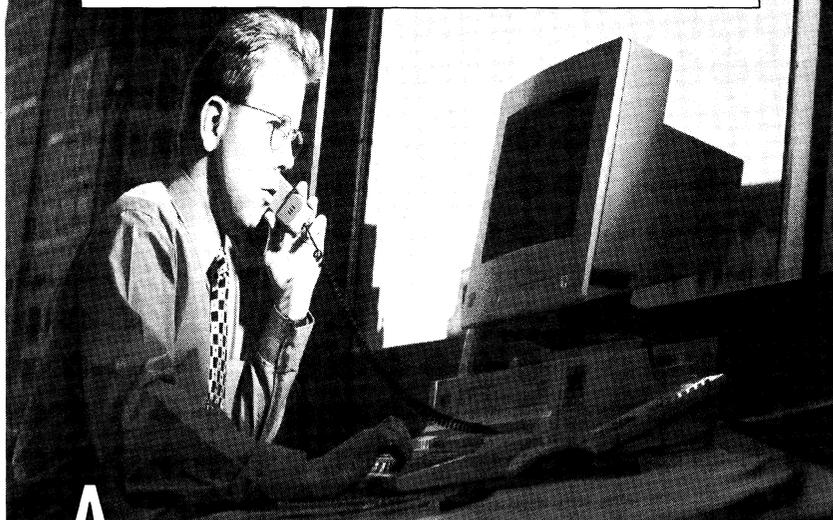


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## Law Reform Commission tables 'kids' report

The Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) report, *For the Sake of the Kids: complex contact cases and the Family Court*, was tabled in Federal Parliament late last month.

This report takes a systematic and coherent approach aimed at reducing the number and severity of such cases, which are a heavy drain on the limited resources of litigants, the Family Court and legal aid services.

It has been estimated that litigation of access matters cost \$150 million in 1993/94.

ALRC President Alan Rose said there was no "miracle cure" in these complicated matters.

"The ALRC has not relied on a single response but has put forward a number of recommendations aimed at improving each stage of the process," he said.

These include early identification of such cases so preventive action can be taken to stop conflict becoming entrenched, ongoing case management by the courts and more effective use of enforcement procedures.

The detailed ALRC recommendations also cover the issues of scrutiny before making orders, contact centres plus information, education, guidelines and training.

"The fundamental principle underlying the report is that the best interests of the child are paramount," Mr Rose said.



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