

Copyright Council Seminars

The Copyright Council will be conducting two series of Seminars in 1996.

Darwin and Alice Springs have been included in some topics and these have provisionally been set down for the week 13-17 May 1996.

There is a series of writers, composers, musicians, actors, visual artists or photographers. The topics to be conducted in Alice Springs and Darwin are

- Composers Songwriters
- Introduction to copyright for song-writers
- Performers rights
- Copyright for visual artists and photographers

There is also a series for librarians and teachers.

The Supreme Court Library has brief details of the content of the above seminars which we can send on request.

For further information and confirmation of dates, please contact the Australian Copyright Council by phoning (02) 6983536 or on fax (02) 3181788.

*Frieda Evans
Librarian
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Australian Law Reform Commission

On 29 November 1995 the federal Attorney-General, Michael Lavarch MP, gave the Commission a reference on the adversarial system of litigation in Australia.

The commission has been asked to examine and report on what changes, if any, should be made in this respect to civil, administrative law and family law proceedings before courts and tribunals exercising federal jurisdiction (a copy of the terms of reference is available from the Law Society).

The Commission's proposed review will build on the work of the Access to Justice Advisory Committee, the Litigation Reform Commission of Queensland and the various reforms already being considered by courts in Australia.

It will draw upon the rules and procedures of courts and tribunals in Australia and overseas (including those in civil code jurisdictions).

Work on the reference will commence in March 1996 following completion of the Commission's review of the law on standing.

Commonwealth Courts and Tribunals – CPI Increases to Court Fees

Fees and charges in Commonwealth courts and tribunals will be increased on 1 January 1996.

The average 23 per cent increase, foreshadowed in the 1995/96 Budget and expected to raise about \$4 million in a full year, is in line with movements in the Consumer Price Index since 1989.

Existing provisions for waiver of fees and charges in cases of financial hardship will continue to be available.

In 1993 the Government established a review of fees and charges in courts and tribunals which recommended the CPI-based increases.

"Since the present fees were set, the Government has been spending an increasing amount on courts and tribunals while the revenue raised from litigants has not increased in real terms," Mr Lavarch said.

"The contribution of litigants to the running costs of Commonwealth courts is generally much less than in the comparable State and Territory jurisdictions."

For example, the cost of initiating proceedings in the Federal Court will rise to \$368 from \$300 and the cost of lodging an appeal will rise to \$616, from \$500.

Initiating process in the Supreme Court of New South Wales is \$450 and \$2050 in the Commercial Division. The basic fee for filing an appeal is \$1,550.

In the Victorian Supreme Court the basic fee for commencement of proceedings is \$500. Commencement of an appeal to the Full Court costs \$2,000 plus a hearing fee for appeals of \$250 a day. There is a basic fee of \$265 for setting down a proceeding into a general list, rising to \$515 for the Building Cases and Commercial Lists.

Details of the new fees are published in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette.

4 Sale

Facsimile machine with broadcast facilities

Due to a recent upgrade of its facsimile requirements The Law Society of the Northern Territory has for sale a Pitney Bowes Model No 9200F facsimile machine with a Pitney Bowes 9200LP plain paper laser printer.

This unit is in full working order and is approximately three years old. It has memory facility for 99 facsimile numbers and also 24 grouped broadcast numbers. Manuals are included. Please contact The Law Society for further details on 81 5104.