

## what's going on in the LRCs?

### Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC)

- *Evidence*. Work in Hand (WIH). Final meeting with consultants scheduled for May 1984. Interim report with draft evidence legislation expected mid 1984 under Mr TH Smith (part-time Commissioner).
- *Aboriginal customary laws*. WIH. Further discussion paper on legal issues raised by the reference due to be published April 1984. Final research papers being produced under Professor James Crawford. Final report expected mid/late 1984.
- *Debt recovery*. Project revived following re-appointment of Professor Kelly. Draft chapters of second stage report being prepared. Report expected on second stage late 1984. See above p 58.
- *Standing and class actions*. WIH. Draft report on Standing awaiting completion. Former Commissioner BM DeBelle QC working on options paper on class actions. Report on Standing to be concluded in mid 1984. Report on class actions to be completed in 1985. Professor Michael Chesterman appointed Commissioner in charge of class actions, March 1984.
- *Sentencing*. Work in suspension.
- *Admiralty jurisdiction and law*. WIH under Professor James Crawford.
- *Foreign state immunity*. Discussion paper issued early 1984. Draft legislation being prepared. Report expected mid 1984 under direction of Professor Crawford.
- *Service and execution of process*. Issues paper (IP 5) released early 1984. Series of research papers being released under Dr Michael Pryles.
- *Contempt law*. WIH. Issues paper released by Professor Michael Chesterman. See above p 62.
- *Matrimonial property law*. WIH in Canberra under Professor David Hambly. Close consultation with the Family Court of Australia, Institute of Family Studies and Family Law Council. See above p 74.
- *Law Reform Digest*. Now published. Interest expressed from LRCs around the world. Consideration being given to updating.
- *Insolvency*. New reference. See above p 58.
- *Community law reform*. New program initiated by most recent reference to the ALRC. Program commenced in Canberra under Professor David Hambly, assisted by Mr Nicholas Seddon. See above p 50.

### New South Wales Law Reform Commission (NSWLRC)

- *Accident compensation*. WIH. See [1984] *Reform* 13. Report expected mid 1984.

- *Legal profession inquiry*. Conveyancing and solicitors' costs. Options paper issued in short time. See above p 78.
- *Artificial conception*. Considerable work has been done on the topic.
- *Community law reform*. Reports on 'Passing of Risk from Vendor to Purchaser' and 'Sound Recording of Proceedings of Courts and Commissions: The Media, Authors, Authors and Parties' nearing completion.

### New Zealand Law Reform Committees

- See [1984] *Reform* 42.

### Northern Territory Law Reform Committee (NTLRC)

- *Wills*. Cabinet has given substantial approval to the committee's report on the Wills Act. Bill expected to be introduced in the May sittings of the Legislative Assembly.
- *Oaths*. The report on the Oaths Act submitted to the Attorney-General.
- *De facto relationships*. Publication of discussion paper; awaiting submissions.

### Papua New Guinea Law Reform Commission (PNGLRC)

- See [1983] *Reform* 88.

### Queensland Law Reform Commission (QLRC)

- *Juries in criminal trials*. To review the role of juries. WIH.
- *Computer Technology*. To prepare desirable legislation to take account of new technology. WIH.
- *Execution of judgments*. Supreme, District and Magistrates Courts level. WIH.
- *Admiralty jurisdiction*. Recommendations made to the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General of Queensland.
- *Limited liability partnerships*. WIH.
- *Subpoenaes*. Costs occasioned by complying with subpoenaes.

### South Australian Law Reform Committee (SALRC)

- *Inherited Imperial law 1702-1750*. Report No 80 being circulated for signature.
- *Survivorship*. WIH.
- *Locus standi*. Environmental law. WIH.
- *Delivery of deeds*. WIH.
- *Supreme Court rules*. Draft circulated to judges.
- *Settled Estates Act*. WIH.
- *Limitation of actions — prescription*. WIH.
- *Limitation of actions — radiation-induced illness*. WIH.
- *Administrative appeals*. WIH.
- *Demise of the Crown in civil actions for perjury committed in civil process and in the tort of malicious prosecution*. WIH.
- *Mistake of law and mistake of fact*. WIH.

- *Owner or occupier of land and trespass of that land.* WIH.
- *Charities.* WIH.

#### **Tasmanian Law Reform Commission (Tas LRC)**

- *Variation of charitable trusts.* Synthesis of responses to questionnaire to be completed in 1984.
- *Sale of land by instalments.* Report tabled.
- *Perpetuities and accumulations.* Report tabled.
- *15 conveyancing matters.* Report presented to Attorney-General.
- *Wills.* Report presented to Attorney-General.
- *Powers of attorney.* Working paper being printed.
- *Boundary fences.* Draft final report settled.
- *Human tissue transplants.* WIH.
- *Fines.* Working paper due early 1984.
- *Jurisdiction and procedure of the courts of request and general sessions.* Working paper being printed.
- *Law relating to succession rights on intestacy.* Working paper being printed.
- *Computer misuse attracting criminal sanctions.* Working paper available early 1984.
- *Payment of interest on judgment debts.* Working paper printed.
- *Suretyship and guarantee.* Working paper prepared but not yet circulated.
- *Variation of private trusts.* Working paper available early 1984.
- *Occupiers' liability.* Working paper due early 1984.
- *Contracts and the disposition of property by infants.* Working paper due early 1984.
- *Private right of access to neighbouring land.* Working paper prepared and being printed.
- *Exclusion clauses and implied obligations in contracts for the supply of goods and services.* Report tabled in Parliament.

#### **Victorian Chief Justice's Committee (VCJC)**

- See [1983] *Reform* 133.

#### **Victorian Law Reform Commission (VLRC)**

- *Intoxication and criminal responsibility.* Public seminar on the subject was held on 27 January 1984.
- *Law of homicide.* Working paper on definition and punishment of murder almost complete. To be published early 1984.
- *Corporate crime.* WIH. DP being drafted.
- *Computer-related crime.* New project initiated.

#### **Victorian Legal & Constitutional Committee (VLCC)**

- *Interpretation Bill 1982.* Report delivered. See above p 68.
- *Delays in hearing of cases in courts.* The committee

has continued to concentrate its attention on delays in the criminal courts from commission of alleged offence to time of trial. Preliminary report has now been adopted and will be tabled during March 1984.

- *Subordinate Legislation (Deregulation) Bill 1983.* Referred to the committee by the Parliament. WIH.

#### **Western Australian Law Reform Commission (WALRC)**

- *Local courts, Part I.* Comments on working paper concerning jurisdiction, procedure and administration being considered.
- *Administrative decisions: judicial review.* Report being prepared.
- *Administrative decisions: new rights of appeal.* Research in progress.
- *Resealing of grants of probate and of letters of administration (uniformity).* Report expected to be submitted later in 1984.
- *Trustees' powers of investment.* Report submitted.
- *Limitation of actions.* Preliminary research paper on balance of reference completed.
- *Alteration of ground levels.* Discussion paper in final stages of preparation.
- *Justices Act.* Working paper on constitution and procedure expected to be issued shortly.
- *Privacy.* Report in preparation.
- *Wills (substantial compliance; effect of marriage and divorce).* Research has commenced.
- *Joint tenancies.* Research being carried out towards the production of a working paper.
- *Expunction of criminal records.* Discussion paper and issues paper issued.

## **personalia**

### **His Excellency Emeritus Professor Gordon Reid**

A member of the Administrative Review Council, Professor Gordon Reid, has been appointed Governor of Western Australia. Professor Reid, a long-time observer of the Australian law reform scene and participant in it, through the ARC, is to commence his new post on 2 July 1984. Professor Reid has had a most distinguished career in public and academic life. From 1946 until 1958 he was an officer of Federal Parliament, rising to be Sergeant-at-Arms. He then transferred to academic life, specifically in public administration. At the time of his appointment as Governor he was Professor of the Department of Politics in the University of Western Australia. Between 1978 and 1982 he was Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of Western Australia. He had also held a Chair in political science in the Australian National University between 1971 and 1974. He has published many volumes of