

does not punish breaches of its orders in an undiscriminating way.

'In fact', Professor Chesterman said, 'when the Court is asked to use contempt powers to punish a spouse for disobedience, it often looks about for other ways of dealing with the situation. It appears inclined to put off the day when it has to make a formal decision as to whether disobedience has occurred and, if so, what form of punishment (if any) should follow.'

But one must remember the rights of the spouse who obtained the order, and of any children of the marriage in whose interests it is made. If the Court keeps on 'ducking' the question of penalties, or if the enforcement process is weak in other respects, people begin to think that they can disobey as much as they like, and get away with it. The Law Reform Commission's research suggests that there is a popular impression that the Family Court is 'soft' on disobedience. The Commission's tentative proposals are therefore designed to strengthen the enforcement process, though in very selective ways.'

**proposals.** The provisional proposals for change contained in the Discussion Paper include the following.

- Streamlining the hearing of contempt proceedings in the Family Court, so as to eliminate delay as far as possible.
- Confirming the duty of the Family Court to make express rulings, in cases of alleged disobedience, as to whether a penalty is desirable or whether due to overriding considerations— in particular, the welfare of any children of the marriage or the possibility of reconciliation between the spouses — it is better to refrain from penalising the breach.
- Extending the range of sentencing options when contempt is found to have occurred, to include measures such as weekend detention and community service orders.
- Giving strength to injunctions forbidding violence or harassment against spouses or children by making breaches of such injunctions a criminal offence.

- Extending the circumstances in which parental abduction of a child in breach of a custody order may be punished as a criminal offence.

## odds and ends

■ **wills after divorce.** Legislation providing for the automatic revocation of a person's will upon divorce came into effect in Tasmania on 5 December, 1985. The Attorney-General, Mr Geoff Pearsall, said the legislation, which had recently been passed by Parliament, implemented one of the 1984 recommendations of the Tasmanian Law Reform Commission in its report on *Reform in the Law of Wills*. Under existing law, a will may be revoked by another will or codicil, by destruction, or automatically by marriage. However, divorce has no direct effect upon the validity of a will. Mr Pearsall said the present law assumed that a divorced testator would still wish to benefit his or her ex spouse, no matter how long it was since they had separated — 'It is generally believed that this would not be the testator's intention where, in the emotional stress of a divorce, the will is often forgotten', Mr Pearsall said. 'Furthermore, many people naturally expect that the law would at least revoke a former spouse's entitlement upon divorce'. Mr Pearsall pointed out the new legislation was a simple and widely accepted reform which would add some certainty to the position of testators.

■ **registration of births and deaths.** The Attorney-General of New South Wales, Mr Sheahan, has asked the NSWLRC to examine and report on the criteria for registration of births and deaths in New South Wales. Mr Sheahan said that recent proceedings before the Equal Opportunity Tribunal, representations to the Attorney-General's Department and complaints to the Anti-Discrimination Board warranted a reference to the Commission.

The Commission's reference is to enquire into and report to the Attorney-General on:

- criteria for registration of the surname of a child of married and unmarried parents;
- registration procedures and acknowledgment of paternity in relation to an ex nuptial child;
- details to be recorded in relation to births and deaths;
- provision of certificates omitting potentially embarrassing details appearing in a registration; and
- any related matter.

In 1984 the then Attorney-General, Mr Landa, said he was considering a proposal to exclude parents' marriage details from birth certificates. Mr Sheahan said that he shared his predecessor's 'compassionate views' and was 'anxious to see the embarrassment of a child or parents avoided'. He said that he was of the opinion that details of parents' marriage, place of marriage and parents' occupation are extraneous in most cases in which a certificate is required. However, as the question of acknowledgment and registration of paternity, and determination of applicable surname are matters with consequences both at the time of registration and later upon issue of certificates for a number of purposes, Mr Sheahan felt it appropriate to charge the Law Reform Commission with the task of enquiring into the 'whole matter of birth and death certificates and report to me to allow clear guidelines to be set once and for all for the benefit of the whole community'.

■ **prostitution.** Street prostitution should be legal in some Melbourne suburbs, according to a report released by the Victorian Government. The 620 page Neave Report on prostitution, one of the most comprehensive investigations of the industry ever conducted in Australia, urges the Government to repeal almost all criminal penalties for prostitution. However, it falls short of calling for total decriminalisation recommending that unrestricted 'gutter crawling' should remain an offence.

The report was prepared over fourteen months by Professor Marcia Neave, who has recently been appointed to a chair in the Adelaide University Law Faculty. She was previously Director of Research at the New South Wales Law Reform Commission. In the report, Professor Neave described prostitution as an exploitative business which should not be encouraged or promoted as a desirable occupation. Nevertheless, the report claims prostitution will never be eliminated and it is unfair to penalise prostitutes who are usually victims of poverty and social hardship.

■ **hot pursuit.** According to the New South Wales Parliamentary Staysafe Committee, police involved in car chases which result in injury or death should be made more accountable. The Committee has recommended mandatory coronial inquests and a new formal inquiry panel to investigate in such cases.

This conclusion is based on the Committee's study which found that the number of police cars involved in serious car accidents had increased from 149 in 1979 to 326 in 1983. In New South Wales, since 1980 approximately 17 people have been killed and 22 have been injured in police car chases. The Committee found that police cars were involved in accidents far more often than Fire Brigade or Ambulance vehicles. The Sydney Morning Herald reported that according to Mr Michael Knight, the Committee Chairman, the Committee's recommendation was based on the need to keep a check on the few 'Mad Max characters' in the force.

The Committee has found that the present avenues of accountability, namely internal police disciplinary procedures and Civil Court actions, are insufficient and has suggested that a vehicle pursuit review panel be set up consisting of a senior officer from the Police Internal Affairs Branch and a senior officer from the Attorney-General's Department. The panel's role will be to make recommendations to the Police Commissioner for

appropriate disciplinary action where it finds that an officer has behaved irresponsibly during a car chase.

The New South Wales Police Association has responded angrily: according to the Herald report Mr Bob Page, the Association's Secretary has said that it was unfair to compare police with ambulance or firemen who 'don't have to chase criminals and they don't have people trying to run them off the roads or firing shots at them'. Mr Page is reported to have said that criminals will be 'sitting back and laughing their heads off'. 'It will mean criminals will be able to disappear into the twilight in a cloud of blue smoke.'

■ **domestic violence conference.** A national conference on domestic violence, run by the Australian Institute of Criminology, was held in Canberra from 11 to 14 November 1985. The genesis of the conference was a resolution at the Australian Labor Party conference in July 1984 which committed the party to an all-out attack on the problem of domestic violence. As part of this resolution it was decided that a conference should be held on all aspects of domestic violence, including rape and child abuse. The Institute of Criminology was asked to organise this conference. The decision was made to split the conference into two: domestic violence between adults in November 1985 and child abuse in February 1986.

The domestic violence conference was stimulating, exhausting, feminist, angry, very sad, too long, and yet there was not enough time to do all that had to be done. It was fraught, at times, with high emotion. The conference was opened by the Attorney-General, Lionel Bowen who was chastised before he had finished his speech for failing to get to grips with the fundamental cause of domestic violence, which was said to be the patriarchal society.

Organising such a conference is a thankless task. The Australian Institute of Criminology was criticised from various quarters: for fail-

ing to consult with some groups; for giving too much time to others; for failing to organise the agenda so that conference resolutions could be properly thrashed out (there were 23 pages of them by Friday); and so forth. The Commission did not escape criticism by Ms Dawn Rowan for the Norman Lindsay cartoon which was on the cover of the October 1985 issue of *Reform*. The cartoon was intended to be ironical. However the ALRC apologises for any offence given; none was intended. One generally held view was that the first two days, which were devoted to describing the problem of domestic violence, were probably unnecessary because all the participants were only too familiar with the horrors of the problem. It was preaching to the converted. The last three days were more fruitful. It is impossible to do justice to the many and excellent addresses given by representatives from various governments, police departments, women's refuges, legal centres, educational institutions and community centres.

Three people associated with the Law Reform Commission gave papers which put contrary points of view. Ms Dawn Rowan, an honorary consultant in the Contempt Reference and the Administrator of the Christie's Beach Women's Refuge in Adelaide, argued that the legal response, and protection orders in particular, tend to decriminalise criminal conduct which, in turn, serves to condone such violence. Mr Nicholas Seddon, a part-time commissioner and commissioner in charge of the ALRC's domestic violence reference, argued, on the other hand, that a quasi-criminal response in the form of protection orders was a necessary practical legal measure. The Commission's reference is confined to the Australian Capital Territory. Mr Seddon acknowledged that the symbolic and educative role of the law was to some extent undermined by the existence of protection orders. Nevertheless he argued that the criminal law by itself was not an adequate response because it could only be invoked where a criminal offence had been proved beyond reasonable doubt and

because the criminal law could not be used to control non-criminal conduct, such as harassment.

A former ALRC law reform officer, Mr Peter Waters, who now works at Kingsford Legal Centre in Sydney, delivered a paper in which he argued that Family Court injunctions are ineffective to control domestic violence. The conciliation model used in the Family Court is simply inappropriate to deal with family violence. He recommended that a Federal criminal offence covering domestic violence should be created. Mr Waters had worked in the area of his paper while at the Commission in relation to contempt family law.

■ **australian criminal law association.** An International Criminal Law Congress was convened from 6 to 11 October 1985 in Adelaide at the initiative of local criminal lawyers.

The Conference was very well organised and there was an overwhelming response of some three hundred and fifty delegates from all Australian jurisdictions and overseas. The opening address was delivered by Sir Harry Gibbs, the Chief Justice of the High Court and dealt with appellate review of sentencing decisions by that court. Topics canvassed at the conference included: sentencing; plea bargaining; listing procedures for criminal trial; commercial crime; investigation of crime; the role of the media; forensic science; human rights and law reform. A review of the proceedings was given by Dr Bray, the former Chief Justice of the South Australian Supreme court.

The Conference resolved to establish an Australian Criminal Law Association and a steering committee has been established. Initially, its primary concerns will be: organisation of the next conference; publication of the proceedings of the conference and establishing priorities as to criminal law reform issues which should be tackled by the Association.

Inquiries should at this stage be directed to Mr Kevin Borick (who is temporarily convening the steering committee) at Libra Chambers, 27 Waterfall Gully Road, Beaumont, SA, 5066.

■ **victorian homicide law reform.** The first report of the newly constituted Law Reform Commission of Victoria (published in September 1985) deals with the sentence for murder. In most Australian jurisdictions a mandatory life sentence is the penalty for murder. Arguably this was regarded as the only viable option following the abandonment of capital punishment. The absolute and indeterminate nature of a mandatory life sentence has however been subject to considerable criticism. In 1982 NSW altered its law so that although life imprisonment remained the maximum penalty the mandatory component was removed. This was done in recognition of the varying degrees of seriousness of the offence of murder and a desire to give the sentencing tribunal a discretion to treat cases differently.

The Law Reform Commission of Victoria has now recommended that:

- a person convicted of murder be liable to imprisonment for a *maximum* period of the term of his or her natural life;
- at the time of sentence the judge imposing the sentence (whether for a term of years or life) be empowered to fix a non-parole period;
- when a person has been sentenced to life imprisonment the Parole Board shall, when ordering the release of that person on parole, set a period of not less than five years during which the person is to be under active supervision of the Board;
- (as a transitional matter) a single judge of the Supreme Court be empowered to set a non-parole period for each person currently serving a life sentence.

■ **aboriginal customary law: final consultations.** The Australian Law Reform Commission report on Aboriginal Customary Law is now in its final stages. Over the past few months the Commission has engaged in its final consultations on this Reference. In October 1985 Professor James Crawford, the Commissioner-in-Charge of the Reference, and Mary Fisher and Peter Hennessy, Senior Law Reform Officers, visited the Northern Territory. Meetings were held with Aboriginal organisations, lawyers and anthropologists and with other persons involved in the criminal justice system to consider draft legislation prepared by the Commission. Following the meetings in Alice Springs Mary Fisher and Peter Hennessy visited Darwin to hold meetings similar to those in Alice Springs and then went to Groote Eylandt to consult with the Groote Eylandt Aboriginal Task Force. This Task Force had been set up by the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Governments in 1984 to consider ways to reduce the high criminal activity within the the Groote Eylandt community. The Task Force reported in March 1985 and included in its recommendations was the following:

the Australian Law Reform Commission be requested to undertake an investigation into the incorporation of Groote Eylandt customary laws within the judicial system presently operating in Groote Eylandt in close consultation with the leaders of the Aboriginal community.

It was in response to this recommendation that the Commission decided that it should meet with members of the Task Force to ascertain the scope of the investigation referred to. The Commission was concerned to ensure that its final report addressed the problems raised by the Task Force about the incorporation of Aboriginal customary laws. Mary Fisher and Peter Hennessy spent three days on Groote Eylandt and had a series of meetings with members of the Task Force and other interested persons. Members of the Task Force were informed that the Commission generally did not support the codification of Aboriginal customary laws or its direct enforcement by the ordinary courts. Al-

though it was conceded that in particular cases the 'incorporation' of Aboriginal customary laws as the basis for a particular offence may be desirable. This view was in general terms supported by members of the Task Force but there were a number of requests for local bylaws to be put into place which would have the effect of enforcing aspects of local customary laws. These issues will be considered in detail in the Commission's report.

A brief visit was also made to the Yirrkala community which is situated near Nhulunbuy in North Eastern Arnhem Land. Representations made by the Yirrkala community were one of the reasons that the Aboriginal Customary Law Reference came into being. The visit to Yirrkala provided the opportunity for a final discussion to ascertain the level of continuing interest in some form of local community justice mechanism.

In December further meetings were held with the National Police Working Party, representing State and Territory Police Forces, which had been set up to consider the Aboriginal Customary Law Reference. The Commission has received detailed submissions from the Working Party over the previous two years and the opportunity was taken for a final face to face meeting to discuss various aspects of the recommendations. Meetings were also held with representatives of the Attorney-General's Department in Canberra.

■ **hoteliers play spot the deviant in queensland.** The Queensland Parliament has recently passed legislation banning sexual deviants, pervers and child molesters from pubs. The legislation authorises the Licensing Commission to close a hotel if the hotel owner fails on three occasions to spot a drinking deviant.

The Sydney Morning Herald has reported that the legislation has left Queensland hotel owners 'both fearful and confused' as to how they will be able to spot their quarry. The hotel owners have also predicted that the new legislation will lead to further police blackmail.

According to the Herald Report the legislation has been condemned from all quarters. Mr Philip Tahmindjis, senior lecturer in law at the Queensland Institute of Technology, has criticised the legislation as poorly drafted:

Under these poorly designed laws a Catholic woman on the pill could be classified as a sexual deviant and barred from having a drink.

The Liberal leader Sir William Knox has said that because according to the Minister for Welfare Services, Mr Muntz, single mothers were deviants, they too could be the object of the ban.

The legislation has caused consternation in the homosexual community. A 'gay harassment hotline' has been set up to monitor discrimination by hotel owners and the police. The gays claim that the legislation contravenes international human rights legislation, to which Australia is a signatory, by discriminating on the basis of sexual status. The gays are reportedly planning to appeal to the Federal Government to overrule the legislation on this basis.

Meanwhile the opposition spokesman for Justice, Mr Wayne Goss, has given a most helpful guideline to hotel owners:

The drug dealers to be the ones with black hats and black moustaches. The perverts are the men in floral shirts. The child molesters the ones in the corner dribbling all over their chin.

■ **id cards.** A Joint Parliamentary All Party Committee will be established to investigate the Government's proposed national identification system, the Australia Card. The committee will comprise four Government members, three Opposition members and one Democrat and will be chaired by the Government. It will be required to report to Parliament by 31 March 1986. It also will investigate alternative proposals to combat tax evasion and social security fraud. (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 October 1985)

■ **commercial boat to china.** A group of 45 senior Australian commercial lawyers visited China in October for a major bilateral legal conference. The Secretary of the Federal Attorney-General's Department, Mr Pat Brazil, said the conference would open the way for increasing dialogue between the two countries on commercial law. Among other things, there will be exchanges of legal students and lecturers, and another legal convention next October in Canberra will focus on Chinese law. The possibility of establishing a bilateral investment protection agreement was raised. (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 22 October 1985)

■ **eft.** A government committee which has been looking into the question of electronic banking laws has recommended that financial institutions be asked to draw up a code for self-regulation. The inter-departmental committee, established last October, was chaired by the Treasury and included representatives from the Reserve Bank, the Attorney-General's Department Communications, Industry Technology and Commerce, Prime Minister and Cabinet and Telecom.

Shortly before the committee reported the Attorney-General Mr Bowen said in Parliament:

I am anxious that, if a regime can be established, we should have legislation at the earliest opportunity to guarantee that all bona fide customers or consumers will be compensated in the normal way when such fraud has been perpetrated.

According to press reports, while the majority of members of the inter-departmental committee do not favour legislation, they have stipulated that should the banks and other card-issuing financial institutions fail to observe their recommendation, laws to regulate electronic funds transfer (EFT) should be enacted. (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 21 October 1985)

Meanwhile in Britain, the banks have appointed a banking ombudsman to field and investigate consumer complaints.

■ **debts and utilities.** The NSW Minister for Energy, Mr Cox, has instructed county councils to take a sympathetic attitude to poor people faced with disconnection because they can no longer get their power bills paid by the State Government. Mr Cox said last night he was very concerned about the plight of the disadvantaged, and had agreed to the welfare agencies submitting a package of proposals on energy for the disadvantaged. (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 October 1985)

■ **in vitro fertilisation.** Mr Russell Scott, Deputy Chairman of the New South Wales Law Reform Commission, and formerly Commissioner-in-charge of the ALRC's reference on human tissue transplants, has been invited to advise the Council of Europe on several guidelines for new reproductive technology. Mr Scott who is leading the NSWLRC's reference on reproductive technology, was invited as an official representative of the National Health and Medical Research Council. The Committee, with his help, will recommend a model code of rules on human genetics for Europe. (*The Age*, 2 November 1986)

■ **credit card fraud.** Credit card fraud in Australia has risen over the past two years according to research by the Victoria Police. They received three times the number of reports of such fraud in the first nine months of this year as in 1983, and nearly double the number reported in 1984. Detective Sergeant Allan Doyle of the New South Wales Anti-theft Squad was quoted in a newspaper report as saying:

It's a developing problem. We've been looking at it from the point of view of what's happened in the United States where they really have a big problem. I think that most of the things that have gone on over there we're probably going to see over here.

On the other hand Mr Alan Cullen, Director of the Australian Banking Association, said fraud at automatic telling machines was considered from the bank's point of view to be within acceptable limits. Mr Les Cornel, General Manager of the Bankcard Association of Australia, said card fraud loss in Australia had not varied since 1975 as a percentage of turnover. But Ms Norma Arnold, Vice-president for Marketing, Sales and travel-related Services at American Express, said her company had noticed that the banks were reluctant to admit the extent of the problem:

Looking at the statistics that we've seen in the marketplace, the level of fraud happening right here in Australia has certainly been rising over the last two to three years. (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 9 October 1985)

■ **tax fraud.** The Taxation Office has recovered 80 per cent of the tax liabilities which tax evaders sent to the bottom of the harbour, but action against those allegedly involved is just beginning. The Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Ian Temby, QC, and his squad of 132 have so far charged 58 people with conspiring to defraud the Commonwealth through bottom of the harbour schemes — and some variations which the staff call bottom of the harbour with pike twist and bottom of the harbour with double somersault. Of the 58 charged, only five have been tried. All five, including the biggest single promoter of the schemes, Brian Maher, have been convicted. Charges have been laid against the other 53 in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. It could take about two years for these matters to be resolved. (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 21 October 1985)

■ **drugs.** The Vice-president of the NSW Council for Civil Liberties, Mr Ken Horler has criticised drugs legislation introduced into New South Wales Parliament. The legislation includes a State Drug Crime Commission Bill and a Crimes (Confiscation of Profits) Bill. The proposed Drug Crime Commission will sit in camera. A person against

whom allegations are made may, at the discretion of the Commission, be legally represented, but not as of right. The Commission's activities are excluded from the scrutiny of the Ombudsman.

'The Commission's wide inquisitorial powers and powers of compulsion raise serious questions', Mr Horler says. He lists the following:

- reversal of the criminal onus of proof;
- abolition of the right to silence;
- abolition of the fundamental rights not to incriminate oneself; and
- uncertainty about the extent to which material provided under compulsion may be used in a criminal trial.

The Council for Civil Liberties also questions what the proposed New South Wales Drug Crime Commission will do to existing bodies, such as the Drug Law Enforcement Bureau, the Federal Police, the two forces' Joint Task Force into Drug Trafficking and the National Crime Authority, are not already doing. (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 22 October 1985)

■ **kidneys for sale.** A British surgeon says he has been duped twice by wealthy Indian patients who tricked him into giving them transplants of kidneys they bought from slum dwellers in Bombay after swearing in affidavits that the donors were relatives. Mr Michael Bewick, a consultant at Guy's Hospital in London, said patients from India had also tricked other British surgeons into performing transplants. (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 November 1985)

■ **marriage out of fashion.** As many as one in four young Australians who were born in the 1960s may never get married, according to the Institute of Family Studies. Australians are marrying later, with young people bypassing formal marriage in favour of simply living together.

A research fellow with the Institute of Family Studies, Dr Gordon Carmichael, said yesterday that recently released Bureau of Statistics

figures showed a continuing trend toward later marriage. 'Leaving home and becoming sexually active are no longer dependent on getting married', Dr Carmichael said.

Couples can now openly live together unmarried and — given the high levels of divorce — many are viewing such relationships as sensible preludes to marriage, if not alternatives to it.

Expectations of marriage and assessments of what it has to offer have changed, making people more cautious about getting married.

Dr Carmichael said.

In addition, high levels of youth unemployment, the need for prolonged education, high housing costs, and a general desire for security before getting married all operate as reasons for delaying entry into marriage.

Figures released recently by the Bureau of Statistics show that fewer than one in 10 Australia girls now marry in their teens compared with one in three in the early 1970s. The number of men marrying before their 22nd birthday has dropped by almost the same rate. Dr Carmichael said the movement away from marriage at a very young age had been very sharp since the 1970s.

Australian women seem less inclined than men to remarry or enter a de facto relationship after divorce. Dr Carmichael said statistics showed that 24980 divorced men compared with 23200 divorced women remarried last year.

Because the normal practice is for men to marry women younger than themselves, divorced men have a larger pool of potential remarriage partners who have never married available to them than do divorced women.

Male divorcees are also much less frequently hampered in their search for a new spouse by having custody of children of their previous marriage. (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 19 October 1985)

■ **phone taps.** Premiers from four States and the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory have expressed an interest in acquiring phone tapping powers for State police involved in drug investigations according to



the Federal Minister for Health Dr Blewett. As a result of the special Premiers' Conference on Drugs held in April 1985 the Federal Government offered to legislate to allow State police forces to tap telephones during drug investigations. Dr Blewett said that the proposed powers would be subject to stringent controls over their use by the States. These controls would include warrants from Supreme Court judges and a system of periodic reporting to State and Federal Attorneys-General. (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 19 October 1985)

## letters to the editor

The Deputy Chairperson of the Law Reform Commission of Victoria, Dr Jocelyn Scutt, has written to *Reform* about the Norman Lindsay cartoon on the cover of the last issue. The cartoon was reproduced from a 1902 issue of *The Bulletin*

Since its inception, I have been supportive of the ALRC publication *Reform*.

I would, however, be doing less than justice to the cause of women who are beaten, bashed and abused in the home if I did not place in writing to you my disappointment in the latest issue of *Reform* — in particular, the cover which makes a 'joke' of criminal assault at home.

The many women who are constantly abused at home, and the women and men who are truly concerned about this issue, would not find it amusing.

## new publications

### Australia

- ALRC
- : Report on Standing in Public Interest Litigation, 1985. No 27.
  - : First Report under Community Law Reform Program for the ACT dealing with Contributory Negligence in Fatal Accident Cases and Breach of Statutory Duty Cases, Funeral Costs in Fatal Accident Cases, 1985. No 28.
  - : Discussion Paper on Contempt and Family Law, 1985. DP 24.
  - : Matrimonial Property Law Research Paper on Housing after Divorce, 1985. RP2.

NSWLRC

QLRC

SALRC

TasLRC

VCJC

VLRC

VLCC

### Canada

CLRC

Alberta ILRR

BCLRC

- : Contempt Research Paper on Contempt and Family Law, 1985. RP 6A.
- : Report on Criminal Procedure: Unsworn Statements of Accused Persons, 1985. No 45.
- : Annual Report 1985.
- : Discussion Paper on Criminal Procedure: The Jury in a Criminal Trial, 1985. DP 12.
- : Report on a bill to amend and reform the *Jury Act*, the *Justices Act* and the *Criminal Code* insofar as those acts relate to committal proceedings and trial by jury in criminal courts, 1985. No 35.
- : Report relating to the Inherited Imperial Law and Constitutional Statutes, 1985. No 96.
- : Report on Local Court, 1985. No 45.
- : Report on Wills for Mentally Disordered Persons, 1985.
- : Report on Prohibition of Reports of Proceedings in the Supreme Court and County Court, 1985.
- : Report on Unsworn Statements in Criminal Trials, 1985. No 2.
- : Report on the Burden of Proof in Criminal Cases, 1985.
- : Fourteenth Annual Report 1984–1985, 1985.
- : Report on Search and Seizure, 1984. No 24.
- : Working Paper on Assault, 1984. WP 38.
- : Working Paper on Status of Federal Administration, 1985. WP 40.
- : Working Paper on Arrest, 1985. WP 41.
- : Working Paper on Bigamy, 1985. WP 42.
- : Annual Report 1984–1985, 1985.
- : Matrimonial Property: Division of Pension Benefits Upon Marriage Breakdown, 1985. Report for Discussion No 2.
- : Report on Performance under Protest, 1985. No 81.