

- (i) as to whether any of those offences should be abolished; and
- (ii) with regard to those offences which should be retained, what changes, if any, including changes to their description and definition, are desirable to make the law more readily understood and more relevant to modern conditions.

## what's going on in the LRC's

### Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC)

- *Contempt of Court*. WIH. RP on 'Contempt in Relation to Commissions and Tribunals' issued May 1986 and RP on 'Non-Compliance with Court Orders and Undertakings' issued June 1986. Draft Report being finalised, due early 1987.
- *Sentencing*. WIH. DP in preparation.
- *Debt Recovery*. WIH. Report finalised, due November 1986.
- *Matrimonial Property Law*. WIH. Report in preparation, series of consultants meetings scheduled for the next six months. Report due mid 1987.
- *Class Actions*. WIH. North American consultant Mr Andrew Roman joined the team in October for three months. See p.208. Consultative paper being prepared. Report due mid 1987.
- *Insolvency*. Fourth consultants meeting held on 22 August 1986 at which papers on Part X of 'Bankruptcy Act', 'Property Available for Distribution on Priorities' were discussed. Fifth consultants meeting to be held on 31 October 1986 at which papers on 'Discharge from Bankruptcy', 'Administration of Insolvency and Insolvency Administrators' will be discussed.
- *Privacy/Sentencing: Expungement of Criminal Records*. WIH. Public hearings completed. Proposals being revised. See p.212.
- *Admiralty Jurisdiction*. Civil Jurisdiction Report at Printers. Report on Prize and Criminal aspects of the reference due early 1987.
- *Service and Execution*. WIH on report.
- *Occupiers Liability*. WIH. DP being prepared.
- *Evidence*. Draft report and revised legislation prepared. Consultants meeting in October, final report to be completed by December.
- *Community Law Reform in the ACT – Loss of Consortium*. Report with Attorney General.

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

- *Criminal Procedure*
  - *The Jury in a Criminal Trial*. Soon to be published.
  - *Procedure before Trial in Criminal Cases*.

Discussion Paper completed in draft; publication expected soon.

- *Classification of Criminal Offences*. WIH.
- *Appeals in Criminal Cases*. Preliminary work has commenced. Discussion Paper expected in late 1986.
- *Artificial Conception*
  - *Human Artificial Insemination*. Report released.
  - *In Vitro Fertilisation*. Work well advanced on Discussion Paper.
  - *Surrogacy*. Research commenced. Work proceeding on Discussion Paper.
- *Registration and Certification of Births and Deaths*. Background research completed. Consultation commenced. Consultative document in course of preparation.
- *Evidence*. Research paper prepared outlining application of ALRC Interim Report.
- *Sale of Goods*. Draft report prepared. Work proceeding on issues paper to cover consumer aspects of sale of goods.
- *Community Law Reform*
  - *Limitation of Actions*. Report with printer.
  - *Employees' Liability*. Report nearing completion.
  - *Payments made under Mistake of Law*. Report nearing completion.
  - *Contribution between Persons liable for the same Damage*. WIH.
  - *Dog Act*. Report nearing completion.
  - *Highway Authorities Non-Feasance*. Report nearing completion.
  - *Disposal of Uncollected Goods*. WIH.

### Northern Territory Law Reform Committee (NTLRC)

- *Supreme Court Rules*. WIH.
- *De Facto Relationships*. WIH.
- *Administrative Appeals*. WIH.
- *Statutory Interpretation*. WIH.

### Queensland Law Reform Commission (QLRC)

- *Real Property Acts*. WIH.
- *Property Law Act*. WIH.
- *Enduring Powers of Attorney*. WIH.

### South Australian Law Reform Commission (SALRC)

Justice Zelling has retired from the South Australian Supreme Court (See [1986] *Reform* 165) and at present the Committee is awaiting the appointment of a new Chairman.

### Tasmanian Law Reform Commission (TasLRC)

- *Workers Compensation*. Report tabled.
- *Motor Vehical Accident Insurance Compensation*. The Attorney-General asked the Commis

sion to give this reference priority and so all resources have been used to finish the report by mid October.

From mid October the Commission will continue its work on the following:

- *Suretyship and Guarantee*. Draft report awaiting approval by Committee.
- *Minors' Contracts*. Draft report awaiting approval by Committee.
- *Child Witnesses*. Report with Attorney-General.
- *Computer Misuse*. Report awaiting approval by Committee.
- *Occupier's Liability*. Report awaiting approval by Committee.
- *Onus of Proof*. WIH.
- *Insanity*. WIH. Committee appointed.

#### **Victorian Chief Justices Law Reform Committee (VCJC)**

- *Supreme Court Act 1958*. Sections 142-159 on Foreign Attachment. Committee appointed under chairmanship of Mr Justice McGarvie.
- *Exemption Clauses*. WIH. Committee appointed under the chairmanship of Mr Justice O'Bryan.
- *Competence and Compellability of Witnesses*. WIH. Committee appointed under the Chairmanship of Mr Justice O'Shea.

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

- *Plain English*. WIH. Discussion paper on the principles of plain English drafting, in their application to legislative drafting and government communications, published September 1986. Report due end 1986.
- *Medicine Science and the Law*. WIH. Discussion papers on Informed Consent and Gene Modification in the course of preparation, late 1986.
- *Commercial Sales and Leases*. WIH. Report on repeal of the Hire Purchase Act published September 1986.
- *Sexual Offences*. WIH. Discussion paper on Rape and Allied Offences published September 1986; report due late 1986. Discussion paper on other Crimes Act Offences due late 1986; report mid 1987.
- *Automatism (Intoxication)*. WIH. Final report in course of preparation, due October 1986.
- *Homicide*. WIH. Report on Mental Element in Murder delayed in order to extend coverage to the Mental Element in Manslaughter.
- *Land Law*. Reference received 1 May 1986. WIH. Discussion papers on indefeasibility and on enforcement of mortgages and judgment debts due October 1986. A final report due De-

cember 1986. Further discussion papers due early 1987. Final report due December 1987.

- *Occupational Regulation*. Reference received 11 June 1986. WIH Discussion Papers due February 1987. Final report due June 1987.

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

- *Delays in Courts*. This inquiry is on hold at present, because the Committee is concentrating on the Human Rights and Victims of Crime references. It is hoped that further work will be done on Delays in Criminal Courts later this year.
- *Australian Constitutional Convention*. WIH.
- *Subordinate Legislation*. WIH.
- *Human Rights*. Three discussion papers have now been released and widely circulated for discussion and comment. The three papers are titled:
  - A Bill of Rights for Victoria? Some issues.
  - Are Human Rights Adequately protected in Victoria? Some preliminary examples.
  - Freedom of Expression in Victoria.

Written submissions are currently being called for and are requested by 31 October 1986. Public hearings are continuing. The Committee has been given an extension to 31 December 1986.

- *Support Services for Victims of Crime*. Written submissions are currently being received and public hearings are continuing. An extension of time to 30 June 1987 has been granted by the Minister of Police and Emergency Services. The Report will be tabled in the Autumn Session of Parliament 1987.
- *Burden of Proof*. The Committee is still awaiting a response to its November 1985 report on Burden of Proof. Therefore no further action is currently taking place in regard to this inquiry.

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

- *Local Courts*. Report being drafted.
- *Limitation and Notice of Actions*. Discussion Paper in preparation.
- *Courts of Petty Session*. Report to be submitted shortly.
- *Privacy*. Report in preparation.
- *Criminal Process and Mental Disorder*. Consultants comments received and discussion paper to be issued shortly.
- *Problem of Old Convictions*. Report submitted.
- *Medical Treatment for the Dying*. Preliminary submissions being considered, work on discussion paper commencing.
- *Medical Treatment for Minors*. Discussion paper in preparation.