

From the Editor ...

In 1994, the Australian Law Reform Commission released the results of a comprehensive study of women in the law. The inquiry documented a culture of gender bias and inequality before the law. Many of the report's key recommendations were implemented (see the article on p37), but what advances have been made in the past decade?

In this issue of *Reform*, we have asked our contributors to re-consider the issue of women in the law. Professor Margaret Thornton begins with a primer on feminist legal theory (p5). Sally Moyle and Marissa Sandler, from the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's Sex Discrimination Unit, consider the impact of the *Sex Discrimination Act 1984* (Cth) (p10). Articles on various aspects of women in the legal profession are contributed by the Hon Justice Margaret Beazley of the New South Wales Court of Appeal (p20), Alexandra Richards QC (p14), barrister Carolyn Sparke (p23), and New Zealand Law Society President Christine Grice (p26).

We have also looked at women who help *make* the laws, with personal perspectives on Parliament from Senator Marise Payne (p31) and Julia Gillard MP (p34).

Turning to the work of the ALRC, since the last edition of *Reform*, the Commission has released three major publications.

In March 2003, the Australian Government tabled the final report in the Australian Law Reform Commission and Australian Health Ethics Committee inquiry into the protection of human genetic information. The report, *Essentially Yours* (ALRC 96), received high praise from within Australia and overseas. *Reform* asked two experts in the field—Trudo Lemmens (p41) and Dr Thomas Murray (p47)—to review aspects of the report.

In July this year, consultation papers were released for the ALRC's two current inquiries. This issue includes updates on the inquiries into gene patenting and human health (p51) and the protection of classified and security sensitive information (p56).

Michelle Hauschild
Editor, *Reform*

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When preparing contributions, contributors should note the following points:

- 1/ Electronic lodgement of articles (by e-mail or disc) is preferred. Articles should be in RTF, Word or WordPerfect formats. Discs should be IBM-compatible.
- 2/ The name, address, phone and fax numbers of the author must be attached to the article.
- 3/ Articles should be between 1,000 and 3,500 words in length. Shorter articles are welcome. Contributions to 'Reform Roundup' should be under 1,000 words.
- 4/ Articles submitted to *Reform* should be in final form as corrections on proofs will be limited to literal errors or changes necessitated by legal developments.
- 5/ Articles submitted to *Reform* for publication must be original and not currently under consideration for publication elsewhere, except by prior arrangement.
- 6/ The Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) reserves the right to republish all material on its website and to use all accepted articles for promotion of the journal.
- 7/ The ALRC reserves the right to edit submitted articles so they conform with *Reform's* writing style. The Editor will seek to contact contributors to verify changes before publication.

Style

- 1/ All articles must be written in clear, accessible language, suitable for the lay reader.
- 2/ Gender neutral language should be used.
- 3/ Contributors should seek to minimise the use of endnotes, however, all legislation, international instruments, organisations and cases referred to should be clearly identifiable.
- 4/ Avoid unnecessary punctuation. Abbreviations should not be followed by a full stop.