

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The provision of hearing rooms for arbitrations in Sydney has for many years been a high priority of the Institute. Members are aware from previous issues of *The Arbitrator* that hearing rooms have been established in conjunction with Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (ACICA) in Phillip Street, Sydney. The hearing rooms were officially opened in June and the text of the address for the opening by the Commonwealth Attorney-General, The Hon. Michael Duffy, appears in this journal. The constant bookings for the hearing rooms at the Sydney Centre certainly suggest that the convenience of the Centre and its facilities are much appreciated by the legal and commercial community in Sydney.

The Institute welcomed the recent announcement by the Queensland Attorney-General that Queensland was to enact the uniform Commercial Arbitration Act. When this is done, the uniform legislation will be in force in all States and Territories of the Commonwealth. This fact together with the enactment last year by the Commonwealth of the UNCITRAL Model Law places Australia both domestically and internationally at the forefront of developments in commercial arbitration.

At about the time you receive this copy of *The Arbitrator*, the University of Adelaide is holding its Second Symposium on Commercial Arbitration. This is in depth consideration of commercial arbitration will undoubtedly do much for the promotion of arbitration as an acceptable means of resolving commercial disputes.

FRANK SHELTON
President

LEGISLATION

The following is the text of a Media Release issued by The Hon. Dean Wells, Attorney-General, Queensland on 30 April 1990.

COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION LEGISLATION FOR QUEENSLAND
Queensland will be brought into line with the rest of Australia in the area of commercial arbitration following a decision by Queensland Cabinet today.

Attorney General, Dean Wells, said Cabinet approved the introduction of a Commercial Arbitration Bill into State Parliament.

Commercial Arbitration involves the appointment of an arbitrator on major commercial disputes to avoid lengthy court battles which can be expensive for both sides.

"Every other State has adopted the legislation recommended by the Standing Committee of Attorneys General and the Law Reform Commission.

"It's about time Queensland did too. The winners will be the State's commercial clients.

"They will have at their disposal a much more efficient and streamlined process by which they can arbitrate disputes.

"Some clients currently have their disputes arbitrated in other States. This will no longer be necessary when the new Bill is introduced.

"This important move by the Queensland Government will enable Australia to boast uniform legislation in the field of commercial arbitration.

"We'll stop losing business to other States and possibly attract clients from the Pacific rim countries who want their disputes arbitrated," Mr Wells said.