

# PUBLISHERS LIAISON COLUMN

**KERRIE MILLGATE**

PUBLISHERS LIAISON COMMITTEE CONVENOR

AUSTRALIAN SECURITIES COMMISSION

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As I take over the role of PLC convenor it is with the hope I can continue the good work commenced by Fay O'Grady. Over the past two years, under her guidance, the PLC has played an extremely valuable coordinating role between our group and the legal publishers. Several major issues have been addressed as a result.

The column will continue to voice the concerns of members of the ALLG but to do that we are dependent on your input. So I encourage you to take an active part and write to us about the issues which concern you. Where possible you should seek the assistance of your State representative in the first instance. However with the great advances which are being made in every branch of our profession there are bound to be issues that arise which have a national interest and which we would like to see featured in this column.

I would also wish to continue the cooperative spirit established with the legal publishers and thank them for their current contribution.

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*Dear Madam,*

When searching recently in DISKROM's *High Court and Federal Court Decisions* CD-ROM published by Computer Law Services, I discovered that some of the recent High Court decisions which I knew had been reported in the CLRs did not have their citation, whereas other older ones did. I contacted the Computer Law Services Hotline Service thinking that they had just missed a few. They informed me that when the information was first compiled they did add the citations, but now that they receive the unreported judgments straight from the Court, they do not go back and add the citations once they are reported. This means that decisions on

the database from 1993 onwards will not have any citations if they have been reported. I understand Computer Law Services' priority in providing the information in a timely manner and keeping the database current, but feel that at least a note should be added in the disclaimer to warn users that citations will not be updated. It would be quite natural to assume that when one sees some CLR references they are all noted, especially as the database states that it contains "decisions" as opposed to "unreported decisions", in which case people would then search other sources to check if the case has been reported. The way it stands now, I assume that other people like myself would rely on the information provided, and assume that the decision retrieved is unreported.

**Michelle Ennis**

Supreme Court Library  
Victoria

**Ms Kerrie Millgate**

Australian Securities Commission  
2 Chifley Tower  
Chifley Tower  
Sydney NSW 2000

**Dear Ms Millgate**

On behalf of CCH I would like to congratulate you on your new role as the Co-ordinator of the Publishers Liaison Committee for the *Australian Law Librarian*. I am sure you will continue the excellent work of your predecessor and I look forward to responding to queries you and your readers may have about CCH and its services. As a group librarians offer a good barometer of our effectiveness at meeting our customers requirements.

In particular I would like to respond to recent comments regarding our policy of issuing the transfer binder in relation to the *Australian Torts Reporter*. As you may be aware CCH has increased the number of cases that have been reported in this service. As a consequence Volume 2, where the cases are located, has tended to become crowded toward the end of each year.

To alleviate this overcrowding CCH issues a transfer binder to hold the cases for the time prior to the publication of the bound volume early in the following year. CCH attempts to minimise the period between the issuing of the transfer binder and the publication of the bound volume for two main reasons:

1. The separation of material from the reporting service makes research more difficult as it is necessary to move between the transfer binder and the service itself
2. As a separate volume there is a greater likelihood that the transfer binder may be misplaced

However CCH is also cognisant that as Volume 2 of the *Australian Torts Reporter* becomes crowded toward the end of each year filing becomes more difficult. This presents a situation in which CCH must strike a balance between ease of filing and ease of use. Therefore CCH will monitor the service during the whole of 1996 giving special consideration to ease of filing. If a transfer binder is required in 1996 CCH will ensure that it is issued at a time that will alleviate the filing difficulties that have been experienced in 1995

Thank you for the opportunity to address the concerns that have been raised over transfer binders. We are very pleased to receive feed back on our products as this enables us to respond quickly to the needs of our customers as soon as they become known to us. I trust that the monitoring system that we have put into place this year will ensure that the desired balance will be struck.

Yours sincerely  
CCH Australia Limited  
**Craig Norton**  
Product Manger

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