

Another criticism is directed at the short lead time between the introduction of the Bill and the possible startup date of 1 January 1996. As Mr Griffiths noted in a postscript, the Bill did not achieve passage before the parliament was dissolved. Accordingly, the 1 January date could not be met. The Bill will be considered by the incoming Government after the election on 2 March 1996.

Mr Griffiths considers that prescribing in the Bill the medium by which the FRLI will deliver data is a problem. I simply point out that the medium is described only as 'image based'. The reason for adoption of that technology was to enable a fast, secure and reliable mechanism to capture instruments which, it is expected, may arrive in the Office of Legislative Drafting in a variety of bewildering formats - including the possibility of original manuscript, or manuscript amendments to printed copy. The technology involved in this is well understood and robust.

Yours sincerely

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## Dear Editor

In response to Mr Warren's article, 'Australian Legal Literature: Gaps in the Indexing' which appears on page 27 of this issue I should like to note that the journal articles he indicates are missing from ALLI, have in fact been indexed and are available on the database currently in its "raw" form (which can be subscribed via AARNET). They will also appear on the next release of the CLS product and on LEXIS and KIWINET (where ALLI is also available).

I should also like to add that ALLI is a new product on the commercial marketplace, one which we at Monash very much believe in. We have high hopes for its future and intend to expand its coverage to include as many publications from the Asia-Pacific region as possible. If the support for this Australian endeavour continues to grow, then we will be able to commit greater resources to the enterprise, to increase both the breadth of indexing and its timelessness. Comments and suggestions are always welcomed and encouraged.

Yours sincerely

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## NATIONAL CONVENOR'S NOTES



A warm welcome to you all for the new year. I hope everyone had an enjoyable festive season and that there aren't too many stray kilos hanging around! Can

you believe it is March already? As I look at the agenda I've set myself for this year, I'm beginning to wonder where the time is going.

### *Convenors' meeting*

In early December 1995 I had the pleasure of meeting with all the ALLG convenors in Melbourne, in order to discuss the direction of the ALLG for the next twelve months. Before telling you some of the initiatives that have come from that meeting, I'd just like to say it was a really positive, worthwhile day and it is really inspiring to see what great people we have representing the ALLG.

The question of a national identity formed an important part of our discussions and it was agreed that the time has come to give the group a more coherent national profile. Along these lines we agreed to have a national logo and letterhead designed, to make the names of each of the state and territory groups consistent, and to amend the national constitution so that it can be adopted by each of the states

In order to launch the ALLG's new national profile, we felt that it was important to have a presence on the Internet. The ALLG will be developing a homepage over the next few months, which will have a national focus with each division being represented. It is intended that responsibility for the homepage will rest with the National Convenor although each division will be responsible for the state information

There was also much discussion about suitable projects that could be funded nationally and would be of benefit to all our members. Apart from the Internet homepage, the group decided that we would develop an *Australian Law Librarians' Group Handbook*, providing information on various services used by law librarians, e.g. where/how to get unreported judgments for each jurisdiction, legislation, government reports etc. It is hoped that this exciting publication will be completed for a launch at the Law Symposium in Melbourne in October 1996.

Of course, one of the key issues discussed at the meeting was the state of electronic publishing of legal resources in Australia. It was very clear from our discussion that ALLG members are still far from happy with the pricing structure, licensing agreements and network arrangements that we are seeing from the major publishers of CD-ROM products. Discussion centred on what the ALLG considered to be reasonable in terms of prices, etc. As a result of our meeting, we have

come up with a lobbying strategy which you will be hearing more about in the very near future.

### *Conferences*

The Victorian Division of the ALLG are hard at work planning the Law Symposium set for October 1996 in Melbourne. During the convenors' meeting, Ann Wootton was able to give us a progress report and it sounds as though they have some interesting speakers and sessions in store for us all. In addition planning has already begun for the 1997 Specials, Health and Law Conference in Perth. With a theme *On the Edge*, it is already shaping up to be an exciting conference, promising plenty of Western Australian hospitality.

After much discussion as to whether the ALLG should break away from the combined Specials, Health and Law Conference, I hope that both the Melbourne Law Symposium is a resounding success and that we can still entice large numbers of ALLG members to come to Perth in 1997. I'm sure the issue of a separate conference will continue to be discussed for some time yet, but it is important to note that a lot of planning and work goes in to each and every conference - their success only being assured with the support and participation of all ALLG members.

### *And finally*

Finally I'd like to thank Ann Wootton for hosting the meeting at Mallesons Stephen Jaques in Melbourne, the Victorian Branch of the ALLG for inviting the convenors to their wonderful Christmas Party and James Butler for recommending Cafe Guernica!

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