

Data Communications Seminar

Rapid technological development has meant that disciplines like computing, telecommunications and broadcasting are converging at a time when the needs of their customers are diverging equally as rapidly, a lunchtime seminar on data communications law was told recently.

Technology was developing so rapidly the law had been unable to keep up, Mr Ian Tuckwell, development manager for Publishing and Broadcasting Ltd, said in speaking of problems confronting the area of data communications.

He said that compounding these problems was the fact that the business community was increasingly reliant on the telecommunications system; this was coupled with a too-high level of ignorance of the subject in the general population. A further, related, problem was the need to delineate appropriately the boundaries of monopoly and competition.

Mr Tuckwell noted that there were three levels of regulation in the area: the Telecommunications Act, the Telecom (General) Bylaws, and the policies of the Commission and management.

Other speakers at the seminar which was held at the Masonic Centre, Sydney, on 7 September, 1983, by the NSW Society for Computers and the Law and the Australian Communications Law Association, were Dr Ray Freeman, Telecom District Manager, Sydney city district, Mr Mark Armstrong of the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal, and Mr Andrew McPherson, a Sydney solicitor.

Cigarette Advertising

Much public comment on the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal's Draft Policy Statement on the advertising on radio and television of cigarettes or cigarette tobacco [(1983) 3 CLB 10] is based on a misunderstanding of the document, according to the Vice-Chairman of the Tribunal, Mr Ken Archer.

"It is important to emphasise two points. First, the Tribunal is not creating any new rules. It is simply providing guidance to interested persons on the interpretation and administra-

tion of laws which were made by the Federal Parliament seven years ago", he said in a News Release (NR393).

"Second, the Tribunal's Draft Policy Statement does not concern the general issue of sponsorship of sport by tobacco companies. That is not a matter within the Tribunal's jurisdiction. Some recent press reports have suggested that the Tribunal is creating new regulations. In fact, the opposite is true. The Tribunal is responding to requests for guidance, and our Draft Policy Statement makes it clear that it is intended to avoid the need for any additional regulations", Mr Archer said.

COMING EVENTS

October 26 Contempt of Court Mr Justice Samuels A.C.L.A. luncheon (Sydney venue to be announced).

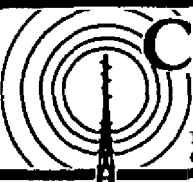
November 2 Information Privacy (12.30 Masonic Centre, Sydney) — N.S.W. Society for Computers & The Law lunch seminar.

November 11 Defamation and Copyright, Federal Attorney-General, Senator Gareth Evans, A.C.L.A. and Copyright Society luncheon (Sydney venue to be announced).

November 16-17 Communications conference (Lake-side International Hotel, Canberra) — hosted by Department of Communications.

November 26 Uniform Defamation code proposal (10 am to 4 pm Regent Hotel, Sydney) — Media Law Association of Australia seminar.

December 7 Current Information Retrieval Technology (4-8 pm Masonic Centre, Sydney) — N.S.W. Society for Computers & The Law seminar and Christmas celebration.



COMMUNICATIONS LAW BULLETIN

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Communications Law Association (ACLA) Edited by John Mancy

- The Bulletin informs subscribers on the law in areas affecting communications — broadcasting, defamation, copyright, film, telecommunications, advertising, contempt of court, freedom of information, entertainment, privacy and censorship.
- For minimal cost you can keep up to date with changes in the law as they will affect you — particularly in areas where lack of knowledge may put you at risk.
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- The Association is totally independent and publishes material from widely differing standpoints.

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