

new references

- NSWLRC : *De facto Spouses*. See above, p. 135
- VCJC : *Limitations: Survival of Causes of Action for Personal Injury*. Sub-committee established.
- WALRC : *Medical treatment of minors*. See above, p. 128.

what's going on in the LRCs?

Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC)

- *Evidence*. Issues Paper and DP circulating. Research papers on differences in Australian legislation and a proposal on hearsay also distributed. Work in hand (WIH). See above, p. 114.
- *Child Welfare*. Report completed, with printer.
- *Aboriginal Customary Laws*. WIH. Awaiting new full-time Commissioner.
- *Standing and Class Actions*. WIH.
- *Debt Recovery*. WIH. Amendments to bankruptcy laws proposed. See above, p. 120.
- *Privacy*. WIH. Report being drafted under Professor Hayes. See above, p. 131.
- *Sentencing*. Interim report (ALRC 15) circulated. Awaiting full-time Commissioner to revive the project. See above, p. 120.
- *Insurance Contracts*. Government response to report on agents and brokers announced. See above, p. 122. On the balance of the report, dealing with substantive law of insurance contracts, WIH under Professor Kelly. Report due early 1982.
- *Law Reform Suggestions*. Second batch included in ALRC Annual Report 1981, with printer.
- *Law Reform Digest*. WIH. Manuscript completed and approved at ALRC conference, Hobart, 1981. Publication expected early 1982.

N.S.W. Law Reform Commission (NSWLRC)

- *Legal Profession*. DP on Divisions of the Profession etc. released. See above, p. 110. Drafting continues on further DPs.
- *Enforcement of Money Judgments*. WIH. Cooperation with ALRC.
- *Unincorporated Associations*. WIH.

Northern Territory Law Review Committee (NTLRC)

- *Crime: White Collar Crime*. WIH.
- *Practice and Procedure: Rules of Court*. WIH.
- *De Facto Relationships*. WIH.
- *Local Courts Act*. WIH.
- *Family Law: Protecting the Matrimonial Home*. WIH.

N.Z. Law Reform Committees

- See [1981] *Reform* 36.

Papua New Guinea Law Reform Commission (PNGLRC)

- *Customary Law*. WP to be published in the near future and also a case-book of customary law cases. Work proceeding.
- *Consumer Protection*. WP 17 published and circulating.

Queensland Law Reform Commission (QLRC)

- See [1981] *Reform* 69.

South Australian Law Reform Commission (SALRC)

- *Practice and Procedure*. WIH.
- *Locus Standi*. Report 67 relating to law governing locus standi — non-party interventions and *amici curiae* in relation to proceedings in civil jurisdiction is circulating and should be sent to Attorney-General soon.
- *Real Property: Mortgages*. WIH.
- *Insurance: Fire Insurance*. (#52) WIH.
- *Liens: Workmen's Liens*. (#64) WIH.
- *Evidence* (#51) WIH.
- *Crown Proceedings*. WIH.

South Australian Criminal Law Reform Committee (SACLRC)

- See [1980] *Reform* 130.

Tasmanian Law Reform Commission (TasLRC)

- See [1981] *Reform* 106.

Victorian Chief Justice's Law Reform Committee (VCJC)

- *Occupiers' Liability*. Sub-committee report to be submitted to next meeting of the full committee.
- *Habeas Corpus Act*. WIH.
- *Limitation of Actions for Personal Injury*. Report adopted and forwarded to the government for consideration.
- *Oaths and Affirmations*. Report adopted and forwarded to the government for consideration.
- *Supreme Court Act 1958, s.142-159 (Foreign Attachments)*. WIH.
- *Proof of Prior Convictions*. Report adopted and forwarded to the government for consideration.
- *Wills for Mentally Disordered Persons*. Sub-committee report to be submitted to next meeting of the full committee.

Victorian Law Reform Commissioner (VLRC)

- *Corporate Crime*. WIH.
- *Crime: Provocation*. Work about to begin on preparation of report.
- *Crime*. Diminished Responsibility as a Defence to Murder. WP published August. Comments to be received up to 31 October. It is hoped a report will be published before end of the year.
- *Criminal Procedure*. Unsworn Statements in Criminal Trials. Report No. 11 published and distributed. See above, p. 116.

Victorian Statute Law Revision Committee (VSLRC)

- *Privacy*. Submission received, no evidence taken as yet. Committee met with Professor Hayes of the ALRC in August 1981.
- *Protection of Animals Act 1966 and Related Provisions*. Six terms of reference still to be examined. The committee has received submissions relating to vivisection but no evidence has been taken as yet.
- *The Constitution Act 1975*. Committee currently taking evidence in relation to the role of the Upper House and a report will be presented to Parliament during the current Spring Session.

Western Australian Law Reform Commission (WALRC)

- *Medical Treatment of Minors*. New reference. See above, p. 128.
- *Absconding Debtors Act*. Report to be available soon.
- *Privacy*. WP on private intrusions expected in the near future.

personalia**The Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Kerr**

It was announced in London in August 1981 that the Chairman of the English Law Commission, Sir Michael Kerr, will be elevated on 1 October 1981 to the Court of Appeal as a Lord Justice of Appeal upon the completion of his tour of duty as Chairman of the Law Commission for England and Wales in September 1981. A note on Sir Michael Kerr's career as a distinguished commercial lawyer and judge of the High Court of Justice is contained in [1978] *Reform* 83. During his recent visit to the Australian Legal Convention in Hobart in July 1981, he made a deep impression on Australian lawyers. He attended the Australasian Law Reform Agencies Conference and there spoke of the problems of getting law reform reports implemented. On this, see above, p. 118.

Retirement of ALRC Members

A number of the Commissioners of the ALRC have

retired, by rotation. Professor David St.L. Kelly, Professor of Law in the University of Adelaide, has completed his part-time commission which followed his period of service as a full-time Commissioner. Professor Kelly was one of the initial full-time Commissioners of the ALRC. He led projects in consumer indebtedness, insurance and, for a time, privacy. He took an active part in many other projects and in the establishment of the ALRC. An earlier note on his career appears in [1976] *Reform* 59. Professor Kelly remains associated with the completion of the ALRC projects on indebtedness and insurance contracts. Dr. John Seymour has also concluded his tour of duty with the Commission. He led the ALRC, as Commissioner, in its project on child welfare law reform for the ACT. The report, which calls on Dr. Seymour's unrivalled knowledge of comparative child welfare law and criminal law generally, is now with the printer. Dr. Seymour is a Senior Criminologist with the Australian Institute of Criminology and has returned to full-time duties with that Institute. However, he is in demand by at least one government as a consultant on child welfare law reform. Mr. Brian Shaw QC of the Melbourne Bar has completed a period of four years' service as a part-time ALRC Commissioner. Mr. Shaw took an active part in a number of the Commission's reports including *Lands Acquisition and Compensation* (ALRC 14) and *Insurance Agents and Brokers* (ALRC 16). A note on his career appears in [1976] *Reform* 59.

The Hon. Mr. Justice Gibson

It was announced in London on 22 August 1981 that the next Chairman of the Law Commission for England and Wales would be the Honourable Mr. Justice Ralph Gibson. Born in 1922 and educated at Brasenose College, Oxford, he was called to the English Bar in 1948. During 1948-49 he taught law at the University of Chicago. In 1968 he took silk. In 1971 he was made a member of the Council of Legal Education. In 1972 he was appointed a Recorder of the Crown Court. He was appointed to the Queen's Bench in the High Court of Justice in 1977. Sir Ralph Gibson is the fourth Chairman of the Law Commission and succeeds Sir Michael Kerr (see above).

Mr. John Cain MP

A past member of the ALRC, Mr. John Cain, has been elected Leader of the Australian Labor Party and Leader of the Opposition in the Victorian Parliament. Mr. Cain served as a part-time Member of the ALRC from 1975 to 1977. He was President of the Law Institute of Victoria between 1972 and 1975 and has served in the Victorian Parliament since 1976. He remains Shadow Attorney-General and has continued to take a keen interest in legal matters and law reform in the Victorian Parliament.

Mr. Bruce Debelle

A full-time Member of the ALRC, Mr. Bruce Debelle, has returned to his practice in Adelaide after a period of