

professional interests and that it was not intended to be a lobbyist organisation or confined to the legal profession.

The Institute was formally established in July 1989. Mr Geoff Kolts, OBE, QC was elected the inaugural President. Mr Kolts was previously First Parliamentary Counsel and was Commonwealth Ombudsman until he retired from public service in 1987 to become a private legal consultant. He was one of the original members of the Administrative Review Council, and has been closely involved in the new administrative law since its inception. Expressions of interest and inquiries about the Institute should be addressed to the Secretary, P.O. Box 1927, Canberra, ACT 2601.

#### AAT electoral jurisdiction

The Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Affairs, which had been inquiring into the conduct of the 1987 federal election and the 1988 referenda, has published its report on the federal election.

During the inquiry the Australian Electoral Commission drew attention to the fact that presently in joint roll States the decision of a Divisional Returning Officer to remove a person's name from the electoral roll could be reviewed by both State courts of summary jurisdiction and the AAT, depending on whether the returning officer's actions affected a person's state or federal enrolment. It suggested that all questions of enrolment in joint roll States be reviewed by Magistrates Courts.

The Parliamentary Committee, however, thought that the AAT offered greater potential for uniformity in decision-making and was better equipped to deal with complex applications in a more flexible manner. It recommended that the Minister for Administrative Services approach state governments with a view to having the review of all such decisions undertaken by the AAT.

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#### R E C E N T P U B L I C A T I O N S

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