

The Council is preparing a final report to the Attorney-General that deals with a number of administrative law implications of contracting out including access to information and complaints handling.

Copies of the Discussion Paper are available, free of charge, by telephoning the Council's Secretariat on (02) 6250 5800. If you would like to receive a copy of the Contracting Out Report when published, please contact the Council Secretariat.

Further information on this project can be obtained from the Council's Director of Research, Philippa Lynch on tel (02) 6250 5800.

### **Internal Review**

As discussed in the previous issues of *Admin Review* the Council has a project underway to assist Commonwealth agencies by developing a best practice guide for internal review. The pilot study for the project is looking at a range of internal review systems in five agencies. The Department of Social Security and Centrelink (in relation to Social Security Act matters), the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Department of Health and Family Services and the Australian Customs Service have all agreed to participate in the pilot study. A preliminary study of the background and the practice of internal review within the 5 agencies has been completed.

As discussed in the last issue of *Admin Review*, the Council has been considering the methodology paper prepared by Professor Spencer Zifcak, from La Trobe University. The Council is now developing the second stage of the project which will focus on obtaining information to identify the

needs which agencies are seeking to satisfy in their internal review system and to examine the extent to which the internal review systems being used by those agencies meet these needs and the values and principles of administrative law.

The contact officer for this project is Gabrielle Lewis on tel (02) 6250 5800.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS TRIBUNAL**

### **NEW JURISDICTIONS**

The Principal Registry of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal advise that, as at 30 June 1998, the number of enactments that confer jurisdiction on the Tribunal is 308. This number is up from 292 at 30 September 1997. The Tribunal notes that the following legislation, as at 30 June conferred jurisdiction on the AAT, or altered the existing jurisdiction of the AAT:

- Air Services Regulations (Amendment) 1998
- Australian Meat and Livestock Industry Act 1997*
- Broadcasting Services Legislation Amendment Act 1997*
- Child Care (Eligible Child Care Centres) Amendment Guidelines (No 1) 1998 [*Child Care Act 1972*]
- Child Care (Eligibility—New Allocations) Guidelines 1998 [*Child Care Act 1972*]
- Child Care (New Allocations) Guidelines 1998 [*Child Care Act 1972*]
- Child Care Legislation Amendment Act 1998*
- Child Care Payments Act 1997*
- Cultural Bequests Program Guidelines (No. 1) 1997 [*Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*]
- Customs and Excise Legislation Amendment Act (No. 2) 1997*
- Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations (Amendment) 1997
- Customs Regulations (Amendment) 1997
- Export Control (Hardwood Wood Chips) (1996) Regulations (Amendment) 1998
- Customs Regulations (Amendment) 1998
- Flexible Care Subsidy Principles Amendment (No. 1) 1997 [*Aged Care Act 1997*]