

situation obtains with barristers who speak out on behalf of bodies such as the Council for Civil Liberties and the International Commission of Jurists etc. The Council takes the view that apart from these exceptions members of the Bar should only receive publicity for their professional activities as a direct result of their appearances before Courts or Tribunals or in presenting papers to law conferences, seminars etc. On the latter topic the Council has taken the view that members of the Bar should not speak at private or in-house seminars conducted by firms of solicitors or legal departments. On the other hand, members of the Bar are actively encouraged to present papers at seminars or conferences which are open to all interested members of the profession or the public. The latter activity is compatible with our existence as an independent Bar, the former is not.

In the last Federal Budget the Government moved to remedy the long-standing discrimination against the self-employed in the field of tax deductible superannuation. In February this year the Council of the Australian Bar Association, at my suggestion, engaged a firm of actuaries to report on the extent to which the current tax laws discriminated against the self-employed. I enlisted the help of Graham Ellis, who is also an actuary, and we worked on the final report with the consulting actuaries. It was ready for submission to the Commissioner of Taxation at the beginning of June. It is pleasing to note that our submissions on the basis of calculating reasonable benefit levels, the removal of the present fixed ceiling for annual deductions, and deductibility on a basis comparable with a corporate employer have been substantially accepted. The new regime will be in force when you write your cheque in favour of Barristers' Superannuation in June 1991.

We do live in interesting times. □ Ken Handley.

Christmas Charity

This year the Bar's selected Christmas Charity is the Richmond Fellowship of New South Wales (tax deductible). The Fellowship provides therapeutic housing in group homes and in unsupervised accommodation for the reintroduction of psychiatric patients to the community. Its work is invaluable, its need is desperate. This year your contribution to the Bar's charity will help to keep alive an urgently needed alternative to Government institutions.

Please support your Charity. Cheques made out to the "Richmond Fellowship of New South Wales" should be forwarded to the Registrar by 4 December 1989.

For further information contact Greg James Q.C. on 229.7333. □

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Re: Association of Barrister Civil Arbitrators

I am writing to inform you of the recent formation of an Association of Barrister Civil Arbitrators, membership of which is presently available to Barristers who have been appointed Arbitrators under the provisions of the Arbitration (Civil Actions) Act, 1983.

The objects of the Association are as follows:-

- 1. To operate as an organisation of barrister civil arbitrators which will enable members to discuss, compare and formulate matters of common interest and, particularly, to consider the extent to which consistency in the conduct of arbitrations is desirable.*
- 2. To discuss and consider particular problems relating to arbitration - whether procedural or otherwise.*
- 3. To liaise with the Bar Council and the Law Society as a body in all matters concerning civil arbitration.*
- 4. To promote and control the activities of barrister civil arbitrators with a view to maintaining the status and worth of civil arbitrations.*
- 5. To provide links between members in both formal and social aspects.*
- 6. Such other activities as shall be determined from time to time.*

At the time of writing, there are 30 financial members. The President of the Association is Evan Lewis.

The formation of the Association of Barrister Civil Arbitrators is not intended to duplicate the supervisory roles of the Arbitration Committee or the Bar Council of New South Wales in relation to the performance of the duties of barristers who are appointed Arbitrators under the provisions of the Arbitration (Civil Actions) Act, 1983, but is intended to satisfy a need which was felt to provide a forum for the exchange of information and views among barristers who are discharging those duties, particularly in relation to various problems which arise from time to time in the conduct of arbitrations under the Act.

If any barrister who has been appointed an Arbitrator under the Act has not yet heard of the formation of the Association, or wishes to join, he may contact me on 235 3033 or via DX 650, Sydney, for further information.

*Yours truly,
Paul R. Glissan
Honorary Secretary.*