



MENTIONS

PUBLICATIONS

New Ways for Courts to Assess Service to Clients

The University of Wollongong has released a package of standards for court use in assessing the quality of their service to the public. The package contains two books, 'Standards and Benchmarks' and 'The Review Process'. The publication was compiled jointly by the New South Wales Local Courts and the Centre for Court Policy and Administration at the University of Wollongong who hope to work with courts in NSW, Victoria and South Australia to develop similar benchmarks relevant to other jurisdictions. The standards are based on the core principles governing courts, access to justice, equality, fairness and integrity, independence and accountability and public trust and confidence.

The package is available from the Centre for Court Policy and Administration, Faculty of Law, University of Wollongong, 2522.

For further information contact Professor Helen Gamble, Dean of the Faculty of Law, tel 042 21 3638 or, Dr Rick Mohr, Research Director, Centre for Court Policy and Administration, tel 042 21 4632.

'Communicating with the Human Rights Committee'

This publication is the first in a series of booklets to be produced by the Australian Human Rights Information Centre. The first edition provides a comprehensive and user friendly guide to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It was created to inform non-government organisations, students, lawyers and community groups assisting people whose rights under the Covenant have been breached. The guide covers Australia's position regarding the Optional Protocol, the workings of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, and the procedure required for bringing an individual communication under the ICCPR, as well as under the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Convention Against Torture.

The publication is available from the Australian Human Rights Information

Centre c/- Faculty of Law, University of NSW, Sydney 2052, for \$5.00 including postage. Cheques made payable to AHRIC.

REPORTS AND PAPERS

Rights of People with Disabilities

The Australian Law Reform Commission has released a report 'Making Rights Count', which criticises the inadequacy of Commonwealth disability services legislation.

The Commission states that the legislation should ensure that funding decisions for services recognise the rights and interests of people with disabilities. The statutory objectives of new legislation should include achieving greater independence, employment opportunities and self esteem, for the almost 3.2 million people with disabilities living in Australia. However, the current legislation is narrowly focused on regulating the funding and accountability of providers of disability services, without focusing on the needs of the people who require such services. The Commission has also recommended the establishment of the Office of the Equal Status of People with a Disability to ensure national co-ordination of services and to develop internal and external complaint mechanisms so consumers can air their grievances.

For further details contact, Leora Harrison, ALRC Public Affairs Officer, tel 02 9284 6309.

The report is available on the ALRC's homepage at <http://uniserve.edu.au/alrc/>

Drug law reform

The University of Technology in Sydney has submitted to the Australian Law Reform Commission inquiry into the National Crime Authority and Australian Federal Police, a research paper 'Drug Law Reform — Tough on the Causes of Corruption'.

The paper examines how prohibitive drug laws stifle effective policing and provide a corruptive influence on the police force that enforces such laws. The preparation of this paper was undertaken by student volunteers at the University's Community Law Centre, working in conjunction with the Red-

fern Legal Centre and the Drug Law Reform Foundation.

This project heralds the introduction of a new undergraduate course in Community Legal Research, to be offered by the University's Law Faculty in 1997.

For more information please contact Peter O'Brien at the UTS Community Law Centre tel 02 9514 2914.

NEW INTERNET SITE

The Parliament of New South Wales has launched an internet site.

Information available at the site includes: comprehensive explanations of the operations, procedures and legislative process of the Parliament, as well as biographical information on all Ministers and Members from both Houses.

Daily Hansards, business papers, bills before the Houses and 'what's on' information for each day, are also available at this site, as well as access to many of the resources and databases of the Parliamentary Library and Parliamentary Archives.

The site address is <http://www.nsw.gov.au/parliament>

NEW NEWSLETTER

The Victorian Women's Council is starting a quarterly newsletter entitled *In Women's Interests*. They welcome any contributions for the first edition.

The email address for further details, or to send your contributions to is: owa@vdoj.vic.gov.au email

TIM MCCOY PRIZE

The Tim McCoy Prize is awarded annually by the Tim McCoy Trust for some special contribution to the community. The 1996 prize was awarded to the Federation of Community Legal Centres (Victoria) for their campaign to save the Telephone Interpreter Service as a free service for clients of legal centres. The Trustees emphasised at the presentation of the award that it is particularly important for the legal centre movement that its peak advocacy body represent legal centres and their clients to government.