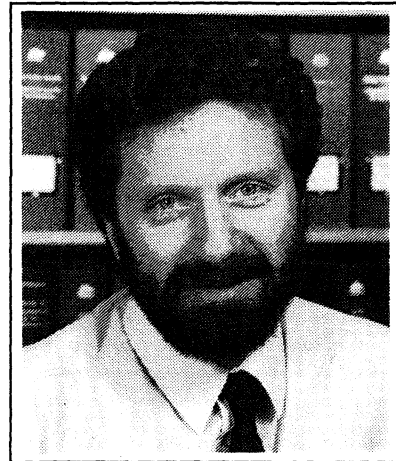


Legal Costs Submission Invited



The Attorney-General has released Discussion Paper No 2 in the series "Our Territory - The Future". The paper is titled "Legal Costs" and a copy has I believe been forwarded to most firms for consideration and comment.

If you have not received a copy of the paper and would like to make comment on the question of legal costs in the Northern Territory please contact Jim Campbell at the secretariat.

Submissions should be lodged with the Attorney-General before 24 December 1996.

If you do not want to prepare a submission but wish to have certain matters raised, please forward details to the Society by 12 December 1996 and they will be included in the Society's submission.

On 28 October 1996 I issued the following media release:

"The Law Society of the Northern Territory notes with concern the introduction into the Federal Parliament of a private member's bill which seeks by amendment to the Northern Territory (Self Government) Act 1978 to remove from the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly the power to make laws with respect to voluntary euthanasia.

The Law Society has not ex-

pressed any view on the question of the voluntary euthanasia nor does it intend so to do.

However the Law Society is strongly of the view that the fact of self government in the Northern Territory requires that the valid laws passed by the Northern Territory must be respected and accorded full faith by the Commonwealth Parliament.

The Law Society calls for the Andrews private member's bill to be rejected by the Commonwealth Parliament."

I also wrote to the President of the Law Council of Australia and the Presidents of all other Australian Law Societies/Institutes seeking support for our stand in this matter.

Notwithstanding I confirmed that the issue for this Society is not voluntary euthanasia (about which the Society expresses no view) but an attack upon self government in the Northern Territory, the Law Council of Australia declined to support us.

The reason given for declining to support us was that the question was political even moral rather than a legal one.

The Law Council in the past has issued press releases such as :

- "Law Council Backs ACT Heroin Trial"

- "Law Council Backs PM's stand on Guns".

Confused about the policy of the Law Council? I am.

The Society has at this point in time received support from the Law Society of Tasmania and I thank them for that.

The secretariat of the Society has now moved to its new premises on Level 11 at NT House.

I know that the old premises were less than salubrious but there is now no reason not to visit the offices of your Society.

Due to the time between now and Christmas being very busy both business and social wise it has been decided to hold off the official opening of the new premises until early in the new year. You will all be invited to attend the opening.

There are lots of blank walls in the new premises so if you would like to donate paintings, pictures, legal memorabilia or money to purchase such items they will be gratefully accepted and acknowledged.



Have you joined the Qantas deal?

Contact the Law Society for further details.