



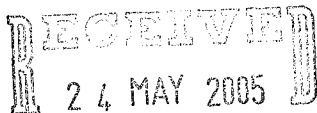
The Australian Institute of  
Judicial Administration Incorporated  
ABN 13 063 150 739

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Executive Director  
Professor Greg Reinhardt  
AIJA  
Level 1, 472 Bourke Street  
Melbourne, Victoria 3000  
Tel (61 3) 9600 1311  
Fax (61 3) 9606 0366  
Website: www.aija.org.au

GR:dg

20 May 2005



BY: LACA

Mr Peter Slipper MP  
Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Slipper

### **Uniform Laws – Desirable and Achievable?**

I am mindful of the fact that the date for submissions in relation to this enquiry has now closed.

I have been requested, however, by the AIJA Project and Research Committee, to write to you.

The AIJA has had, as part of its research agenda, an ongoing interest in the harmonization of Court rules. Much of the work originally envisaged by the AIJA has been assumed by a sub-committee of the Council of Chief Justices chaired by Justice Kevin Lindgren of the Federal Court of Australia. I have no doubt that you are aware of the work of that Committee. Broadly speaking, however, the Committee has been working on harmonization of Court Rules in the area of Corporations Law and subpoenas. More recently, it has turned its attention to Anton Piller orders. No doubt you can obtain further information from Justice Lindgren in relation to the work of the Committee.

I would also point out that within jurisdictions there has been attempt to harmonize rules between or amongst Courts. This has taken place in Queensland, and, from 1 July 2005, is due to take place in New South Wales.

There are certainly difficulties in achieving harmonization of Court Rules and there must be considerable doubt as to whether there can be some overall harmonization on a national basis.

The Project and Research Committee has asked me to draw to your attention the important question of electronic discovery. That is an area in which it might be sought to achieve a degree of uniformity or harmonization. It is to be the subject of a session at the AIJA Annual Conference to take place in Wellington, New Zealand between 7-9 October.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Reinhardt', written in a cursive style.

Greg J Reinhardt

*Email: [Gregory.reinhardt@law.monash.edu.au](mailto:Gregory.reinhardt@law.monash.edu.au)*

Copies to:     The Hon Justice Robert Nicholson AO  
                  The Hon Justice John Byrne