

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN LAW REFORM COMMISSION

Question No. 31

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 20 October 2008:

Are there any new areas of law reform the Australian Law Reform Commission is anticipating considering?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

The ALRC has raised the following matters with the Attorney-General as potential references, (in no particular order of priority):

- Review of Human Tissue Acts and related legislation
- Models for an Australian Charter of Rights
- Appointment processes for federal judges
- Review of federal anti-discrimination laws
- Promoting effective national cooperative legislative schemes
- Access to justice issues (eg the effect of costs rules in court and tribunal contexts)
- Legal issues raised by Australia's ageing population (eg guardianship and assisted decision-making; family agreements; review of the Age Discrimination Act 2004; review of aspects of the Uniform Consumer Credit Code)
- Juries (especially jury directions, and development of a Model Jury Act)
- Reform and harmonisation of animal welfare laws
- A review of the Royal Commissions Act and related matters
- Review and accountability mechanisms in quarantine decision-making
- The legal framework of the Australian external territories
- Review of admiralty law

The ALRC understands that the Government will shortly make a decision on the reference it wishes to make.