

THE FUTURE OF LAW REFORM



Australian Government
Australian Law Reform Commission

Results in Brief: Public Seminar on Shortlisted Topics



On 26 August 2019 the Australian Law Reform Commission conducted an interactive seminar generously hosted by the Law Society of Western Australia in Perth on the future of law reform in Australia. This was the fifth public seminar in a series asking about areas of Australian law that may benefit from reform. The event was also available online for participants outside Perth in the form of a webinar.

Participants were given an overview of the objectives and process of the 'Future of Law Reform' project. An outline was then provided of each of the shortlisted topics that are under consideration for suggestion to the Attorney-General. The major topics included the Australian Constitution, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, regulation of financial service providers, alignment and coherence of environmental legislation, federal allocation of environmental responsibilities, and the impact of automated decision making.



Attendees emphasised that administrative governmental decisions are already increasingly being automated, and there is real urgency to consider how the law needs to change to keep up with these developments. There was also significant interest in mechanisms for considering constitutional reform proposals. Finally, some of the discussion revolved around making the ALRC's processes as inclusive as possible, and reviewing the impact of ALRC recommendations. The discussion was highly valuable and will inform the ongoing development of the Future of Law Reform project.

More details are available at: www.alrc.gov.au/inquiries/where-next-law-reform.