

# THE FUTURE OF LAW REFORM



Australian Government  
Australian Law Reform Commission

## Results in Brief: Seminar on the Future of Law Reform — Technology and the Law

On 12 June 2019, the Australian Law Reform Commission and the Australian National University College of Law hosted a conversation on the future of law reform in Australia. The Director of ANU's Law Reform and Social Justice program, Associate Professor Matthew Zagor, chaired an engaging conversation that focussed on Technology and the Law. The event was the second in a series of seminars that form part of the ALRC's new project, which seeks public input in identifying areas of Australian law that may benefit from reform.



The panel's thought-provoking discussion raised a broad range of issues for reform.

Dr Lesley Seebeck cautioned that in order to ensure Australians live in a digital democracy that respects individual liberty, a deliberative process needs to occur. This requires assessing the existing legislative framework and pruning laws that are not fit for that purpose.

Professor Peter Leonard elaborated on concerns relating to the absence of a robust regulatory framework for data governance. He noted specific concerns, including how algorithms are used to affect the treatment of individuals, and discriminatory use of genetic information.

Dr Imogen Saunders took the discussion beyond this world to the regulation of space. She noted that while Australia currently regulates how humans and objects get into space, there is little regulation of what happens once they are there.

Following the seminar, participants voted for their top three priority topics for a law reform inquiry. Attendees' top concern was the regulation of data collection, retention, use, and governance. This was followed by the need for a review of the Privacy Act and its enforcement mechanisms.

The ALRC is holding a number of seminars across the country and is hosting an online survey (until 30 June 2019). We encourage you to take the opportunity to participate and help to shape the future of law reform in Australia. More details are available at:

[www.alrc.gov.au/inquiries/where-next-law-reform](http://www.alrc.gov.au/inquiries/where-next-law-reform).

