

The Law Reform Process



This Paper is in Easy English.

We use simple words and pictures to show some ideas.



Australian Government
Australian Law Reform Commission

The Australian Law Reform Commission is an agency set up by the Australian Government. Our short name is **ALRC**.



Our job is to look at laws and decide whether they work well or not and if they are fair for everybody.



If there is a problem with the law, the Government asks the ALRC to hold an **inquiry**. In an inquiry we look at how we can make the law better and fairer.



The **law reform process** includes:

- Terms of Reference
- Research
- Consultation
- Issues Paper
- Discussion Paper
- Submissions
- Report



First the Government gives the ALRC **Terms of Reference**. This document tells us:

- What laws we should look at
- What are some of the problems
- When we have to finish



We start by doing lots of **research**.

We also talk with **stakeholders**. Stakeholders are groups or people who

- have a special interest in the inquiry or
- are affected by the law.

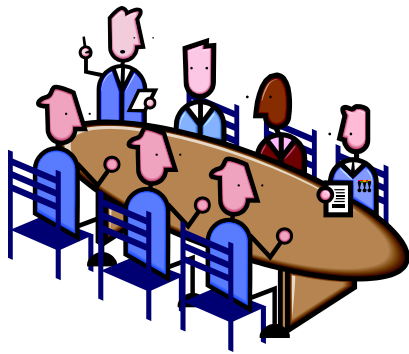


Stakeholders can include:

- Judges and lawyers
- Industry groups and business
- Non-government organisations
- Academics
- People affected by the law



We meet people face to face to talk about how the law affects them. People tell us how they think we can make the law better.



Sometimes we have an **Advisory Committee**. This is a group of people with special knowledge in the law. The Advisory Committee gives ideas to the ALRC.



The first paper we write is called an **Issues Paper**. The Issues paper talks about the problems we have learned about. It also has questions so we can find out more information from people.



We ask people to read the Issues Paper and make **submissions**. In a submission people

- answer our questions
- give us information they think is important.



Next we write a **Discussion Paper**. This includes:

- What we found out from our research
- Our ideas for changes to the law



Then we ask people to make submissions again.

We want to find out if they agree or not with the changes. They might tell us other ways to change the laws.



We look at all the submissions and research before we give ideas about changing the law.



We write a Report that shows all the research and ideas for changes. We give this to the Government. The Government will choose to make the changes or not.