

Appendix 2

Associations of Law
Reform Agencies

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The Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies

Approximately half of all Commonwealth countries have law reform agencies. The Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies was established in 2003/2004 to encourage, facilitate and take forward co-operative initiatives in law reform. It is committed to the Commonwealth's values, and received formal accreditation to the Commonwealth in 2005, and has received annual re-accreditation ever since. The Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies provides capacity-building support for law reform internationally, for law reformers in government and for those working in law reform agencies.

The Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies has a broad set of objectives in its constitution.

Some of the Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies' activities are listed below:

- The Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies organises international conferences on law reform, in partnership with the national law reform agency in the jurisdiction. They take place immediately before or after the Commonwealth Law Conferences, in the same country as the Conference. They have been arranged ever since 2005, in alternate years.
- The Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies provides training about good practice in law reform. Some training is in-country; other training is regional or international.
- The Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies has drafted this guide to good practice in law reform, as a joint production with the Commonwealth Secretariat.
- The Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies engages with the Commonwealth and with

governments to seek high-quality law reform geared to the specific country, including (1) by encouraging and assisting the establishment and development of effective and good-quality law reform agencies, both inside and outside the Commonwealth; and (2) by being significantly involved in triennial Commonwealth Law Ministers Meetings since 2005, both those attended by the law ministers of all Commonwealth countries and those attended by the law ministers of small Commonwealth jurisdictions.

- The Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies has developed strong relationships with many relevant organisations, including as a founder member of the Commonwealth Legal Forum, a group of Commonwealth legal associations, including the Commonwealth Association of Legislative Counsel, Commonwealth Lawyers Association, Commonwealth Legal Education Association, Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association, the British Institute of International and Comparative Law and the Commonwealth Secretariat.
- The Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies undertakes other law reform activities, such as giving advice and assistance, and conducting reviews of existing law reform machinery and methods.

Membership of the Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies is generally open to:

- institutional law reform agencies;
- individuals with a current or previous tie to a law reform agency; and
- other bodies and individuals supporting the aims of the Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies.

Most members are from the Commonwealth. However, the Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies also has members from outside the Commonwealth, who are also most welcome.

WEBSITE: www.calras.org

The Association of Law Reform Agencies of Eastern and Southern Africa

This association was formed in 2003. Its members are the law reform agencies and entities in some 14 countries in eastern and southern Africa.

Its purposes, as detailed in its constitution, are to:

- exchange and share ideas on best practices in law reform;
- exchange and share ideas on the development of law within the countries of the member agencies in accordance with the principles of human rights, good governance and the rule of law; and
- collectively contribute to the attainment of the objectives of member agencies.

WEBSITE: www.justice.gov.za/alraesa

The Federation of Law Reform Agencies of Canada

This Federation was formed in 1990. Its members are the five law reform agencies of Canada.

Its objectives are to:

- advance law reform in Canada;
- encourage the growth of co-operation among law reform agencies;
- educate the public on the role of law reform agencies; discuss and promote issues of interest and concern to law reform agencies;
- provide a forum for meetings of persons engaged with or interested in law reform;
- encourage professional self-development; and
- co-operate with other organisations that tend to promote the objects of the Federation.

WEBSITE: www.folrac.com

Australasian Law Reform Agencies Conference

These conferences have been held regularly since 1973. They are held every two years in different countries in Australasia.

The host country is responsible for establishing the theme for each conference. In recent years, these have included:

- in 2016, 'Law Reform – Survival and Growth' hosted by the Victorian Law Reform Commission;
- in 2014, 'The challenges of Law Reform in the Pacific' hosted by the Samoa Law Reform Commission;
- in 2012, 'Conversations about Law Reform – Sharing Knowledge and Experience' hosted by the Australian Capital Territory Law Reform Advisory Committee; and
- in 2010 'Law Reform – Relationships and the Future' hosted by the Queensland Law Reform Commission.