



# MEDIA RELEASE

January 2006

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## The Law Reform Commission of Western Australia has released its Discussion Paper on Aboriginal Customary Laws

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The Law Reform Commission is pleased to announce release of its Discussion Paper on Aboriginal Customary Laws.

This Discussion Paper is the culmination of five years of consultation and research by the Law Reform Commission and covers discrete areas of interaction between Australian law and Aboriginal law and culture.

In response to the broad terms of reference, the Commission makes 93 proposals for substantive, procedural and policy reform to provide practical and effective recognition of Aboriginal customary laws and of the cultural concerns of Aboriginal people in Western Australia. Proposals cover such areas as inheritance; evidence and procedure of courts; funerary practices; community governance; police and prisons; cultural and intellectual property; criminal justice issues; family law; family violence; and Indigenous disadvantage.

Throughout its Discussion Paper, the Commission has emphasised an approach to recognition of Aboriginal customary law that seeks to remedy systemic bias, embrace Aboriginal culture, and enhance cultural authority by encouraging the institution of substantially self-determining community-owned processes and programs.

Comments or submissions on any of the issues outlined in the Discussion Paper are welcome by 30 April 2006.

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