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Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO BOX 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Secretary and Senators

SUBMISSION TO THE SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE'S INQUIRY INTO THE AUSTRALIAN LAW REFORM COMMISSION

The Northern Territory Law Reform Committee (Committee) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to this inquiry.

The Committee is a small, voluntary committee relying upon the goodwill of members in contributing their time and experience to Northern Territory law reform inquiries.

As such, the Committee places considerable reliance upon the work undertaken by larger, funded commissions, particularly the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC). The Committee has, in the past and for the foreseeable future, considered and adopted many recommendations contained in ALRC reports for the benefit of the Northern Territory. These reports are extensive and well considered, enabling the Committee to rely upon this work and apply it in the context of the Northern Territory.

A significant example is the comprehensive ALRC Uniform Evidence Law Report (ALRC 102, 2005), which this Committee believes will ultimately be adopted by all States and Territories in Australia. Indeed the Northern Territory has recently released an exposure draft Evidence (National Uniform Legislation) Bill 2010, which is based on the model bill produced by the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General following the tabling of ALRC 102. It is anticipated that the Bill will be introduced into the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly during 2011.

The ALRC is a model institution with significant influence on the work of other law reform bodies.

Yours sincerely

Austin Asche AC QC
President and Chair

February 2011