

Police Act Offences

Terms of Reference

In 1986 the Commission was asked to 'review offences created by Parts V, VI and VII of the *Police Act 1892* (WA) ("the Act") and to report:

- (a) as to whether any of those offences should be abolished; and
- (b) with regard to those offences which should be retained, what changes, if any, including changes to their description and definition, are desirable to make the law more readily understood and more relevant to modern condition'.

Background of Reference

The Act deals with the appointment, duties, discipline and dismissal of police officers and also with police powers (such as arrest, entry, search and seizure) and summary offences. The Act was derived from similar legislation existing in New South Wales, South Australia and England at the time of its enactment. Though it has often been amended, the drafting style of the Act remains old-fashioned and unchanged. Further, many of the offences contained within the Act are either out of date or duplicated in other legislation. A

