

RULE OF LAW

INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

13 September 2010

For immediate release

media release

RoLIA releases 2010 Annual Report as well as supplementary survey of Estimates hearings of the TGA and the ACMA

The Rule of Law Institute of Australia (RoLIA) today published its 2010 Annual report as well as a supplementary survey of two regulators' performance at Senate Estimates Hearings: The Therapeutic Goods Administration and The Australian Communications & Media Authority. RoLIA, formerly known as the Rule of Law Association of Australia (RoLAA), is an independent not-for-profit association formed to advance the principles which underpin the rule of law in Australia.

Annual report

The report covers RoLIA's first year including:

- Our two Rule of Law conferences held and to be held in conjunction with the New South Wales Bar Association.
- Submissions to Federal Parliament including those on the National Legal Profession, The Senate Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Bills, anti-people smuggling legislation and the tax law issues of proposed charity public benefit test and privacy of taxpayer information.
- RoLIA Senate Estimates Reports.
- RoLIA efforts to help Stern Hu, the Australian Law Reform Commission and the Administrative Review Council.

RoLIA Senate Estimates Survey

RoLIA has published two earlier surveys in 2010 which considered economics regulators as well as workplace regulators and the Australian Crime Commission. Those surveys can be viewed at www.ruleoflaw.org.au.

The report on the TGA and the ACMA provides graphs representing time allocations for scrutiny; numbers of questions answered and taken on notice; use and value of opening statements; and which senators take an interest in the conduct of the agencies. RoLIA invites readers to make their own judgments on the graphs so we are providing only a limited commentary. Interesting sections of the transcript which relate to rule of law issues such as meaningful annual reporting to parliament and separation of powers have also been included in the report.

For a copy of the full Annual Report and Estimates report please go to www.ruleoflaw.org.au.

For further information please contact RoLIA CEO Richard Gilbert on (02) 9251 8000.