



EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MEDIA STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICAN LAW REFORM COMMISSION CONCERNING
RELEASE OF ISSUE PAPER 33 ON PROJECT 141 – MEDICO-LEGAL CLAIMS**

The SALRC hereby releases Issue Paper 33, the first document to be published during the course of Project 141 – Medico-legal Claims, for general information and comment. Issue Paper 33 aims to announce the SALRC's investigation into medico-legal claims in order to elicit comment and suggestions from relevant stakeholders and to disseminate information to the public at large. The purpose of Issue Paper 33 is to initiate and stimulate debate, to seek proposals for reform and to serve as a basis for further deliberation by the Commission.

The South African Law Reform Commission (SALRC) was established by the South African Law Reform Commission Act 19 of 1973. The main object of the SALRC, in terms of section 4 of the South African Law Reform Commission Act 19 of 1973, is to do research with reference to all branches of the law in order to make recommendations for the development, improvement, modernisation or reform of the law of South Africa on a continuous basis.

Pursuant to requests from the Department of Health and the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development (as the Minister was referred to at the time) to the SALRC to conduct an investigation into medico-legal claims, especially claims against the state, an investigation into this issue was included in the SALRC's research programme in 2015. The project leader responsible for the investigation is Prof Vinodh Jaichand. The SALRC researcher assigned to this investigation is Ms Ronel van Zyl. The Commission on 20 May 2017 considered and approved the publication of Issue Paper 33, which will serve as the basis for the SALRC's deliberations on this investigation.

The comment of any person on any issue contained in Issue Paper 33 or in respect of a related issue which may need inclusion in the debate is sought. Respondents are not restricted to the questions posed and issues raised in Issue Paper 33, and are welcome to draw other matters to the SALRC's attention. Such comment is of vital importance to the

SALRC, as it will assist in providing direction with regard to the scope and focus of the investigation.

The closing date for comments is 30 September 2017. All comments and representations must be sent for the attention of Ms Ronel van Zyl to the following address:

The Secretary
South African Law Reform Commission
Private Bag X668
Pretoria
0001
E-mail: Rovanzyl@justice.gov.za

Issue Paper 33 is available on the Internet at the following site:

<http://salawreform.justice.gov.za>

Issue Paper 33 can also be obtained free of charge from the SALRC on request. Kindly contact Mr Jacob Kabini at Jakabini@justice.gov.za or (012) 622 6327 in this regard.

Contact for enquiries in respect of media statement: Ms Ronel van Zyl.

Email: Rovanzyl@justice.gov.za

Tel.: (012) 622 6337

ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY, S A LAW REFORM COMMISSION, CENTURION

DATE: 17 July 2017