

system of external appeals, open to public scrutiny and capable of determining on their merits appeals against the large number of administrative decisions which are made, far outweigh the difficulties that one or two decisions (not in any event necessarily wrong) may cause to the government. The large number of cases appealed to the AAT which are conceded by departments and authorities before the AAT makes a decision is an indication of the salutary effect of an external system of review. Moreover, Admin Review believes that the system of external review by the AAT has led in many areas of administration to an improvement in primary decision making and a greater attention to the legislation under which decision makers act.

Discussion paper on anti-dumping

The secretariat of the Council, together with a committee of the Council and a consultant, has recently prepared a discussion paper on Stage 3 of the project on review of customs and excise decisions concerning anti-dumping and countervailing duties. That paper has been widely circulated and the Council invites submissions on:

- the appropriateness of the suggestions made in the paper that particular classes of decisions not currently subject to review on the merits should be so reviewable; and

- whether the AAT is the appropriate forum for the review.

Copies of the discussion paper may be obtained from the Director of Research (see front page) and the Council would be pleased to receive submissions from any interested person or organisation.

New Zealand developments

Among recent developments in New Zealand in relation to public law have been the abolition of the Law Reform Committees and the establishment of a permanent Law Commission in their place. The President of the Law

Commission is the Right Honourable Sir Owen Woodhouse, recently retired as President of the Court of Appeal of New Zealand, and the Commission's postal address is:

PO Box 2590
WELLINGTON.

More recently, the Minister of Justice has announced the establishment of a new body called the Legislation Advisory Committee, with the following terms of reference:

- (a) to scrutinise and make submissions to the appropriate body or person upon aspects of Bills introduced into Parliament affecting public law or raising public law issues;
- (b) to report to the Minister of Justice or Legislation Committee of Cabinet on the foregoing aspects of legislative proposals which the Minister or that Committee refers to it; and
- (c) to advise the Minister of Justice on such other topics and matters in the field of public law as the Minister from time to time refers to it.

It is particularly interesting to note that the Committee is conducting a review of tribunals with a view to making recommendations to the Government on their continuing usefulness and also whether in some instances their functions might be transferred to the District Court. The Chairman of the Legislation Advisory Committee is Sir George Laking, and the Committee's address is:

c/- Tribunals Division
Private Bag
Postal Centre
WELLINGTON

R E C E N T P U B L I C A T I O N S

Australian Administrative Law Bulletin, Butterworths, No. 1, October 1985 and subsequent numbers

Australian Law Reform Commission
Report No. 27, Standing in Public Interest Litigation, AGPS, 1985

Baker, Paul

'Some practical considerations of administrative review applications' (1986) Law Institute Journal 340

Bakewell, RD

'The Ombudsman and Politics' (1986) 15(1) Australian Journal of Public Administration 47