

edition of the Canberra Journal of Public Administration. Despite the passage of time since the conference, the papers demonstrate the contrasting attitudes to review of administrative action, and provide a wide and relevant coverage of the field.

Legal Aid applications: NSW means test

The Legal Aid Commission of NSW recently amended its policy so that the means test will apply to applications received on or after 1 September 1988 in civil, family and administrative law, with regard to:

- . veterans affairs matters, including appearances by lay advocates before the Veterans Review Board, and appeals to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the Federal Court;
- . involuntary patients for hearings before the Mental Health Review Tribunal under section 19 of the Protected Estates Act; and
- . family law duty solicitors in all cases except where the applicant is in custody.

Higher Education Funding Act

This Act was passed by Parliament in December 1988 and assented to on 6 January 1989. It provides for AAT review of the following decisions:

- . a decision of the Commissioner of Taxation refusing to issue a tax file number to a student on application, cancelling a student's tax file number or issuing a notice to an institution that a student does not have a tax file number;
- . a decision by an institution not to correct a notice issued to a student setting out details relating to the amounts paid or owed by the student;
- . a decision by the Secretary not to remit a semester debt; and
- . a decision of the Commissioner not to defer or cancel an assessment.

Australian Artists Creative Fellowships Scheme

Under this scheme, which is to be established on an administrative basis, an artist may be granted a fellowship worth \$40 000 to \$50 000 per year for between 3 and 5 years. An advisory panel is to determine those applicants who are eligible and to make recommendations to the Australia Council on the grant or discontinuance of fellowships in particular cases. Draft guidelines, prepared by the Australia Council, raise the questions whether:

- . artists should have a right to reconsideration of a Council decision on discontinuance of a fellowship, on grant decisions or, alternatively, a right to reconsideration of the advisory panel's recommendations;

- . the Council should be required to observe the requirement of natural justice in discontinuance decisions; and
- . artists should have a right under the AD(JR) Act to request reasons for the Council's decisions if the scheme does not require provision of reasons. The Council's decisions are to be made under the Australia Council Act 1975, although the Scheme sets out the criteria relevant to the Council's statutory powers to make grants.

Lands Acquisition Bill 1988

This Bill was introduced into Parliament on 25 May 1988 and is currently before the Senate. It includes a provision which will give the former owner an option to buy back any land acquired by the Commonwealth which the Commonwealth proposes to resell with little or no improvements. Sale will be at current market value. The Bill includes an amendment making this valuation decision subject to AAT review.

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

Cooke, R.

'The Public and Administrative Law Reform Committee: the early years', New Zealand Universities Law Review 13,2, December 1988: 150-4

Cope, R.L.

'The West German Parliamentary Commissioner for Defence Matters : some notes on a Parliamentary Office', Legislative Studies, 3, 2, Spring 1988: 32-33.

Coyle, K.A.

'Standing of third parties to challenge administrative agency actions', California Law Review, 76,5, October 1988: 1061-1107

Farmer, J.

'The work of the Public and Administrative Law Reform Committee', New Zealand Universities Law Review 13,2, December 1988: 155-59

Finlay, F.

'Administrative law: a practitioner's guide', Newsletter of the Law Society of the Australian Capital Territory, 119, February 1989: 11-17

Gorr, J.

'People's law or lawyers' law?', Legal Service Bulletin, 13,6, December 1988: 243-45

Hanks, P.

'Brave new world?', Social Security Reporter, 47, February 1989: 605-6