
F O C U S

Commonwealth Administrative Law

to be Reviewed

The Attorney-General, Senator Gareth Evans, QC, has signalled the Government's intention to conduct a major series of reviews of administrative law. In a speech to the Tasmanian Society of Labor Lawyers in October, the Attorney-General made it clear that, although the new administrative law was in no danger of being dismantled, the reviews were necessary for two reasons. Firstly, because the central institutions - apart from the Ombudsman - had not previously been subject to an intensive study or review. Secondly, new areas of development in administrative law were promised. The areas which the Attorney-General identified as areas where change would be considered were:

. AAT. An objective study of the AAT would be commenced in 1985. The need for the study, the Attorney-General said, arose out of the Tribunal's continually increasing caseload which had placed new demands on the management of the Tribunal.

. AD(JR) Act. At the request of the Attorney-General the Administrative Review Council had already begun the first full review of the AD(JR) Act. A report was anticipated sometime in the new year.

. Compensation. The power of the courts and tribunals to award compensation for unlawful or wrong administrative actions and decisions was limited. Senator Evans said that the AAT - which has no general power to award compensation - would be considered as a possible avenue for the award of compensation.

The Attorney-General also singled out the practising legal profession and law teachers for not bringing themselves adequately up to date with the new administrative law. Interchanges between government on the one hand and the private profession and universities on the other hand were welcomed by him as a means of improving awareness.

R E G U L A R R E P O R T S

Administrative Review Council

COUNCIL PUBLICATIONS

Annual Report

The Council's Annual Report for 1983-84 aims to inform members of the public as well as the Government of developments in administrative review during that year. As well as reporting fully on the Council's activities, it includes

- . an informative and succinct assessment of the major developments in administrative review during the year;
- . general guidelines concerning administrative review - a detailed summary, collected from previous reports of the Council, of the principles which have guided the Council in advising the Government on the development of the new administrative law;
- . summaries of developments during the year affecting the operations of the AAT, the Ombudsman and the courts;
- . a comprehensive bibliography of recent publications relating to administrative law and public administration; and
- . a listing of the AAT's jurisdiction as at 30 June 1984.

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