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"Administrative reform in Whitehall and Canberra." *Canberra Bulletin of Public Administration* (78) August 1995, 13-16.

## Book Reviews

### United Kingdom publication - a bibliography on Administrative Law references

Partington, M; Chapman M; Fletcher, M and Harris, M.

*Administrative Justice: A Working Bibliography*

Bristol Centre for Administrative Justice, Department of Law,

University of Bristol, United Kingdom, 1996.

(ISBN 0-86292-426-X)

Persons conducting research or are interested in administrative law and justice you will find the most recent publication by the Bristol Centre for the Study of Administrative Justice of great assistance. The authors have compiled a substantial list of books and articles published in recent years on administrative law topics. The authors aim to assist and encourage research in the administrative law field.

Published work listed in *Administrative Justice: A Working Bibliography* is classified under both keyword and author. The Foreword states that it is a '*working* bibliography' and is still in the process of development. It contains listings from both British and non-British journals and includes references to many Australian publications. In the Foreword the authors admit that the bibliography 'will provide at best no more than an introduction to the literature ... [but] hope that those contemplating research

in one area may find the bibliography useful in identifying possibly similar research in other areas.'

The publication is available for £7.50 (including postage and packing) (pp viii + 238). Cheques should be made payable to "The University of Bristol" and sent to:

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### **UK - Public law - non-judicial redress of grievances**

Birkinshaw, P.

Grievances, Remedies and the State  
Second Edition  
Sweet & Maxwell, London, 1994.  
ISBN 0 421 48510 8

In recent years there has been increasing use of non-judicial means of resolving grievances between the public sector and the public, the recipients of government services. The author, Patrick Birkinshaw, Professor at the Faculty of Law at the University of Hull, has studied this trend since the late 1970s. His first book on the subject was published in 1985 at a time when much greater emphasis was placed on redress through the courts and little study had been done on the internal processes of government institutions and how those institutions responded to complaints. A second edition of the book has recently been published.

Birkinshaw says that grievance redress, that is, mechanisms for dealing with complaints, is an essential feature of accountability for public institutions. He notes that the last ten years have seen extensive development of effective non-judicial procedures for dealing with complaints and makes the point that today justice is achieved through bodies other than courts.

The author shows how Britain has responded to this trend in central and local government, non-departmental bodies, public corporations and quasi-government bodies. He discusses the British Citizen's Charter, launched in 1991 and says that the Charter has played an invaluable role in raising the profile of grievance redress. He also discusses the role played by Ombudsmen in Britain.

Birkinshaw asks what lessons are there for the future? He sees the main features that should be incorporated into a complaints procedure are accessibility, effectiveness, user friendliness and responsiveness. He also sees greater scope for public participation in shaping policy-making as he is 'not satisfied with Parliament's ability by itself to act as a continuing and effective overseer of policy.' He expresses interest in the creation of an independent and prestigious overseer of public administration. Although the book concentrates on British institutions the principles discussed in the book are as relevant in an Australian context.

### **Constitutional and Administrative Law in Hong Kong**

Wesley-Smith, P.

Constitutional and Administrative  
Law in Hong Kong  
Longman Asia Limited, Hong Kong  
1995  
ISBN 962 00 0188 5

Anyone interested in developments in constitutional and administrative law outside Australia or in how the governmental system in Hong Kong is being prepared for the resumption of Chinese sovereignty in 1997 will find a recent book by Peter Wesley-Smith of great interest.

The book, titled *Constitutional and Administrative Law in Hong Kong*, provides a comprehensive outline and analysis of developments in constitutional and administrative law in Hong Kong.

Wesley-Smith, Professor of Law and Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Hong

Kong, introduces his analysis of the Constitution of Hong Kong with some interesting information on constitutions and constitutional law generally including types of constitutions, sources of constitutional law, constitutional interpretation, validity, judicial review and constitutional ideology.

The book gives a comprehensive account and analysis of the colonial history of Hong Kong, the sources of its constitutional law, the general characteristics of Hong Kong's constitution as well as significant recent developments such as the promulgation of the Basic Law for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ('the Basic Law') and the enactment of the Bill of Rights in 1991. The Basic Law will come into effect on 1 July 1997. Wesley-Smith says that not all the current con-

stitution is 'doomed to extinction' when the British leave Hong Kong in 1997 and that the common law is to survive the transition and 'will supply a good deal of the broad constitution which is destined to supplement and condition the Basic Law.'

The book also outlines the judicial and legislative institutions in Hong Kong as well as the development of Administrative Law and gives a comprehensive account of the various rights and freedoms possessed by residents of Hong Kong.

Wesley-Smith says that unlike the first edition of the book, published in two volumes in 1987 and 1988 this edition is a 'more conventional textbook and will perhaps prove congenial to a wider readership.'

## PERSONALIA

### New Attorney-General

On 8 March 1996 the Prime Minister, the Hon John Howard MP, announced the appointment of Mr Daryl Williams AM QC MP as Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. Mr Williams was also appointed to the National Security, Parliamentary Business and Legal Affairs Committees of Cabinet. The Council congratulates Mr Williams on his appointment.

Mr Williams has a distinguished background in the legal profession. He holds a law degree from the University of Western Australia and was selected as WA Rhodes Scholar in 1965. He subsequently obtained a Bachelor of Civil Law degree at Oxford University in 1967.

After working in Manila for the Asian Development Bank between 1971 and 1975 Mr Williams returned to Perth and joined the Western Australian Independent Bar. In addition to practising law in Western Australia he is admitted to practice in New South Wales and Victoria as well as England and Wales. He was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1982.

Mr Williams has made a significant contribution to the law and the legal profession. He

was a Commissioner of the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia from 1982 - 1986 and chaired the Commission for a year. He was also President of the Law Society of Western Australia in 1984 and President of the Law Council of Australia in 1986 - 1987. In acknowledgment of his service to the profession Mr Williams was appointed a member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 1989.

Legal practice gave way to politics in 1993 when Mr Williams was elected to the House of Representatives as the Federal Member for Tangney. During 1993-94 he was Shadow Attorney-General, and Shadow Minister assisting the Leader of the Opposition on Constitutional Reform. He has been a member of the Joint Select Committee on Certain Family Issues and a member of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs from 1993 to 1996.

The Attorney-General met with Council members on 15 March 1996.

### High Court Appointment

The Council congratulates Justice Michael Kirby on his appointment as a judge of the High Court of Australia in December 1995.