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Announcements

Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC: Collected Addresses Part II: Public Sector Reform

The Palmer Addresses is a collection of speeches and lectures delivered by the Right Honourable Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and Distinguished Fellow of the Victoria University of Wellington Law Faculty. The series is sponsored by an anonymous donor whom the Faculty gratefully acknowledges.

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VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON LEGAL RESEARCH PAPERS

■ **"Reflections on Reform of the New Zealand Public Sector"** 
Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 7/2022

SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law
Email: geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz

An address to the 1995 Public Sector Convention, held on 5–8 November 1995. The address asserts that public sector reform is not at an end in New Zealand. It traces a number of extant issues, and goes on to explore the likely consequences of MMP on the public service and policy-making.

"Speech for Launch of *Rethinking the State Sector Act*"

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 8/2022

SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law
Email: geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz

A speech introducing *Rethinking the State Sector Act*, delivered in Wellington on 19 February 2014. *Rethinking the State Sector Act* is a compilation of contributions from speakers at seminars organised by the Fabian Society and the Public Service Association. This speech emphasises the need for a fundamental rethink of the public service and briefly makes the case for a Royal Commission into the state sector.

"Why the Public Sector Needs Review"

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 9/2022

SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law
Email: geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz

A journalistic piece written for the Dominion Post in 2014. It makes the case for a Royal Commission into the public service, citing the absence of free and frank advice to ministers, the difficulty of recruiting staff into the core public service, its "cult of management", and the silo between departments. It demands that these issues be addressed in a principled and comprehensive fashion.

"Speaking Notes for Panel Discussion on State Sector Act 1988"

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 10/2022

SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law
Email: geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz

Speech notes for a panel discussion on the State Sector Act 1988, held on 26 October 2017. These notes trace the reasons behind the law reform that culminated in the State Sector Act 1988, citing the need to reduce the bureaucratic impedimenta of the old system of public administration. It is argued that reform is needed once again.

"What Needs to Change?"

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 11/2022

SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law
Email: geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz

An address marking the 30th anniversary of the State Sector Act 1988, delivered at Parliament on 28 March 2018. The address argues that a number of changes need to be made to the State Sector Act 1988. This includes the reinforcement and sharpening of the principles of ministerial responsibility and accountability, a rectification of the silo effect that has developed between departments, and the establishment of a Government Services Commission.

"Public Service Legislation"

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 12/2022

SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law
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Speech notes for a panel discussion on the Public Service Legislation Bill, which was held as part of the 2020 Government Law Year in Review seminar on 25 February 2020. The speech suggests that it is a sound idea to revisit the State Sector Act 1988. It sets out some of the provisions in the Public Service Legislation Bill and flags potential issues. In particular, it warns that courts may have trouble interpreting statutory references to non-legislative conventions, and that certain changes could muddy accountability and diminish ministerial responsibility.

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About this eJournal

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Papers Series primarily contains scholarly papers by members of the **Faculty of Law at Victoria University of Wellington**. Some issues collect a number of papers on a similar theme to form a suite of papers on a single topic. Others issues are general or distribute mainly recent work.

The Student/Alumni Series is a subseries of the Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper Series. The subseries started in 2015 and publishes papers by students and alumni of Victoria University of Wellington, comprising primarily work for honours and postgraduate courses. Papers are collected into thematic or general issues.

The Victoria University of Wellington was founded in 1899 to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the reign of Queen Victoria of Great Britain and of the then British Empire. Law teaching started in 1900. The Law Faculty was formally constituted in 1907. The first dean was Richard Maclaurin (1870-1920), an eminent scholar of both law and mathematics. Maclaurin went on to lead the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as President in its formative years. Early professors included Sir John Salmond (1862-1924), still one of the Common Law's leading scholars. His texts on jurisprudence and torts have gone through many editions and remain in print.

Alumni include Sir Robin Cooke (1926-2006), one of the leading judges of the British Commonwealth. As Baron Cooke of Thorndon, he sat on over 100 appeals to the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords, one of very few Commonwealth judges ever appointed to do so.

Since 1996 the Law School has occupied the Old Government Building in central Wellington. Designed by William Clayton and opened in 1876 to house New Zealand's then civil service, the building is a particularly fine example of Italianate neo-Renaissance style. Unusually among large colonial official buildings of the time it is constructed of wood, apart from chimneys and vaults.

The School is close to New Zealand's Parliament, courts, and the headquarters of government departments. Throughout Victoria's history, our law teachers have contributed actively to policy formation and to law reform. As a result, in addition to many scholarly articles and books, the Victoria SSRN pages include a number of official reports.

Victoria graduates approximately 230 LLB and LLB(Hons) students each year, and about 60 LLM students. The faculty has an increasing number of doctoral students. Ordinarily there are ten to twelve students engaged in PhD research.

Victoria University observes the British system of academic ranks. In North American terms, lecturers and senior lecturers are tenured doctrinal scholars, not legal writing teachers. A senior lecturer corresponds approximately to a North American associate professor in rank.

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