

# PUBLIC LAW REVIEW

Volume 14, Number 3

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## ARTICLES

### **Sovereignty in the 21st century: Another spin on the merry-go-round – Rt Hon Dame Sian Elias GNZM**

This article examines the contemporary understandings of sovereignty and the role of constitutions in the 21st century. It argues that a fixation with parliamentary sovereignty and the relative merits of parliament and the courts to the exclusion of a wider perspective is impoverishing constitutional thinking. The article looks at the influences of internationalism and domestic human rights legislation on conceptions of sovereignty and government and offers some suggestions for a better understanding of the constitutional movement. .... 148

### **Reforming New Zealand's election broadcasting regime – Andrew Geddis**

The broadcast media forms the main source of entertainment and information for most New Zealanders, as is the case in most of the developed world. The effectiveness of this means of communication makes it of great potential value to those seeking to influence the opinions of the voting public at election time. However, the costs associated with gaining access to the broadcast media mean that in the absence of regulatory measures, such access is likely to be distributed in an uneven fashion, according to the financial capacities of the various electoral participants. This article examines the way New Zealand has attempted to regulate access to the broadcast media for electioneering purposes, with the aim of ensuring some equality of access. It compares this regulatory framework with the approaches adopted in Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom. An analysis of whether the current New Zealand system of regulation is consistent with the *New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990* is then carried out. Finally, some suggestions for reforming the present regulatory framework are advanced. .... 164

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# Guidelines for Contributors

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  - 5. Austin, n 4, p 56.

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  - 7. Sheehy et al, n 6 at 221.

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