

CIPL Seminar

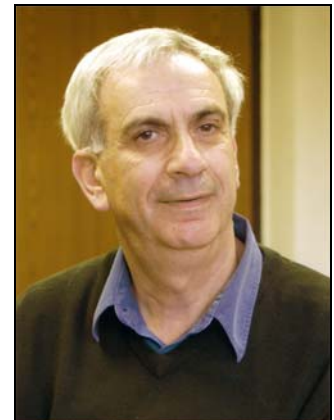
# The Statutory Protection of Rights and Parliamentary Sovereignty – Guidance from the United Kingdom?

**Adjunct Professor Geoffrey Lindell**

**Tuesday 16 October 2007, 1.00pm** (Sandwiches from 12.45pm)

**The Phillipa Weeks Staff Library** Level 1, ANU College of Law,  
Cnr Fellows & East Roads, The ANU

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The doctrine of parliamentary sovereignty has had a profound influence on British and Australian constitutional arrangements. But by the end of the twentieth century its application in the United Kingdom has had to evolve in the face of two major developments – British membership of the European Union and the European Convention on Human Rights. Both developments have involved the adoption of statutory mechanisms to ensure consistency with the relevant international obligations of the United Kingdom but in a way that deliberately falls short of constitutional entrenchment. The aim of this talk is to explore the consistency of these statutory mechanisms with the doctrine of parliamentary sovereignty; and also the extent to which they can be adopted to protect human rights and other kinds of rights in Australia - consistently with the constitutional requirements governing the exercise of federal jurisdiction.

Geoffrey Lindell retired from full time teaching early in 2002. Prior to his appointment to the Melbourne University Law School in 1994 where he ultimately became a Professor of Law, he held the positions of Senior Lecturer and later Reader in Law at the ANU College of Law during the period between 1975 and 1993. Since 2002 he has been an Adjunct Professor of Law at the Adelaide University and the Australian National University; and also a Professorial Fellow of the University of Melbourne. He has taught and published, widely in the field of Australian constitutional law. He has assisted in some major reviews of the Australian Constitution, as well as having provided (and continues to provide) legal and constitutional advice to governments and parliaments. He also appeared as counsel in two major High Court constitutional cases. He was, until 2002, the inaugural Secretary of the Australian Association of Constitutional Law, a body he helped to form and was a co-opted member of the Council of that Association during 2005.