Parliament vs. Ekklesia

- The Ekklesia met at the Pnyx four times a month (2). All citizens were eligible to attend. Matters of state were discussed and laws passed (2). The ekklesia also met as the Heliaea, a court similar to the supreme court.

- In New Zealand, the parliament consists of the house of representatives and the governor general, who represents the crown. The house of representatives is in session three times a week (2). Parliament are responsible for the legislation in New Zealand – they make and amend laws (2).

Cabinet vs. Boule

- The boule in Athens was a council made up of 500 members (50 from each of the 10 tribes). 50 representatives lived in the city for the duration of their time as which was funded by the state. “A new prytany was chosen every month. The man in charge of prytany was replaced every day from among the 50 members. The boule met every day (2) except for festival days and ill-omened days”. (Wikipedia). The boule’s main function was to discuss the matters to be presented to the ekklesia and to vote on what to include on the agenda for the 4 monthly meetings – “they also drew up the agenda for the ekklesia” (Aristotle, Constitution of Athens) (1). It also examined public officials both before and after leaving office to ensure honest accounting and loyalty to the state.

- The cabinet in New Zealand’s democracy are the ministers of the crown who have specific responsibilities. The Executive Council generally meets every Monday (2). The meetings provide an opportunity for Ministers to brief the Governor-General on significant political and constitutional issues that may have arisen during the week. “Ministers outside Cabinet occasionally attend for discussion on specific items with the express prior permission of the Prime Minister.” (Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet)