

Australian Guide to Legal Citation “How to” Guide

This guide will help you with citing the following:

- Case Law
 - Books
 - Legislation
 - Internet Materials
 - Journal Articles
- There is no single accepted method of legal referencing in Australia; however **The University Of Queensland T. C. Beirne School Of Law** recommends students follow the *Australian Guide to Legal Citation, 2nd edition* when preparing assignments and research papers.
 - Whatever style you choose, it is important that it is clear, consistent and accurate.
 - Most legal writing uses footnotes or endnotes, where the author directs the reader to the note by means of an identifier (usually a superscripted number) placed within the text of the work.
 - Footnotes appear at the bottom of the page containing the identifier, while endnotes appear at the conclusion of the document.
 - The following are examples from the *Australian Guide to Legal Citation, 2nd edition*.
 - For further information, see:

Melbourne University Law Review Association, *Australian Guide to Legal Citation* (2nd ed, 2002)

Law / Law 3 Day / Law High Use / Law Ref
KU48 .A87 2002

OR

http://mulr.law.unimelb.edu.au/PDFs/aqlc_dl.pdf

The book also includes an appendix of Law Report Abbreviations and a Quick Reference Guide of typical citations.

■ FOR CASE LAW

- In reported cases the details required are:
 1. **Case name** italicised, or underlined if unable to italicise
 2. **(Year)** in brackets*
 3. **Volume number**
 4. **Abbreviation of the law report**
 5. **Commencing page number**
 6. **Pinpoint** page number used when referring to a specific point in the judgement
 7. **Judge** - only used where appropriate
 8. **Court** - only used when it is not obvious from the citation what the deciding court was

* Note:	Round brackets () are used to indicate that the year is not essential to locating the correct volume of the report series. Square brackets [] indicate that the year is essential to locating the correct volume.
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Format for reported cases

Case Name (**Year**) **Volume** **Report Abbreviation** **Page** , **Pinpoint** (**Judge/s**) .

Examples

Koop v Bebb (1951) 84 CLR 629.

R v Hughes (2000) 202 CLR 535, 548.

R v Kenney [1983] 2 VR 470, 456.

Vynotas Pty Ltd v Brisbane City Council [2002] 1 Qd R 108.

Kartinyeri v Commonwealth (1998) 195 CLR 337, 383 (Gummow and Hayne JJ).

- **Unreported decisions or ‘medium-neutral’ citations** are electronic reports from a court. Since there is no publisher and no printed report they do not rely on volume and page numbers. The details required are:
 1. **Case name** in italics
 2. **[Year]** in square brackets
 3. **Court identifier** abbreviated
 4. **Judgment number**
 5. (Unreported, **Judge/s**, **Judgement Date**) round brackets
 6. **[Pinpoint]**. - Paragraph number in square brackets; if applicable.

Format for Unreported decisions or ‘medium-neutral’ citations

Case name [**Year**] **Court identifier** **Judgement number** (Unreported, **Judge/s** , **Judgement date**) **Pinpoint** .

Examples

R v Harker [2002] QSC 061 (Unreported, Mackenzie J, 12 March 2002).

Murray v The Queen [2002] HCA 26 (Unreported, Gaudron, Gummow, Kirby, Hayne and Callinan JJ, 20 June 2002) [54].

■ FOR LEGISLATION

Details to include are:

1. **Short title** or long title if there is no short title; in italics
2. **Year** in italics
3. **Jurisdiction** abbreviation, in round brackets
4. **Pinpoint**. if applicable

Format for Legislation

Title **Year** (**Jurisdiction Abbreviation**) **Pinpoint** .

Examples

University of Queensland Act 1998 (Qld).

Trustees Act 1962 (WA) s 90.

■ FOR A JOURNAL ARTICLE

The details required in order, are:

1. **Author of the article**, full first name (where possible) and surname.
2. **'Article Title'** in single quotation marks and capitalised
3. **(Publication year)**
4. **Volume number**
5. **(Issue number)** where given. No space between volume and issue.
6. **Full Journal Title** italicised and capitalised; omit *The* from the beginning
7. **Starting page**
8. **Pinpoint** to a specific page or pages; if applicable.

Format for a Journal Article *

Author, 'Article Title' (Year) Volume Number (Issue number) *Journal Title*
Page, Pinpoint.

Example

Robert French, 'The Role of the High Court in the Recognition of Native Title' (2002) 30(2) *University of Western Australia Law Review* 129.

* Note:	Articles obtained from electronic databases are cited as above. Where an article appears ONLY on the Internet, the citation includes 1-6 of the above and 9-11 below
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9. **[Pinpoint]** usually a paragraph, as there are no page numbers; in square brackets.
10. **<Uniform Resource Locator>** (URL) - the Uniform Resource Locator Web Address
11. **Date of retrieval.** Preceded by 'at'; full date with the month spelled out

Format for Journal Article appearing ONLY on the Internet

Author, 'Article Title' *Journal Title* (Year) Volume (Issue) [Pinpoint] <URL>
at Date of retrieval.

Example

Lyndon Griggs, 'Torrens Title in a Digital World' *E Law - Murdoch University Electronic Journal of Law* (2001) 8(3) [16]
<<http://www.murdoch.edu.au/elaw/issues/v8n3/griggs83.html>> at 30 July 2002.

■ FOR A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Format for a Newspaper Article

Author, ' **Article Title** ' *Newspaper Title* (**Place of publication**), **Date** , **Page** .

Examples

Chris Griffith, 'Bunnies Still Run After Day in Court' *Courier Mail* (Brisbane), 30 July 2002, 3.

'Boxing Fights Back' *Australian Financial Review* (Sydney), 1 December 2001, 41.

■ FOR A BOOK

The details required in order are:

1. **Author**, full first name (where possible) and surname; an author may also be editor/s, compiler/s or the institution responsible. If more than three authors use 'et al'.
2. **Title of publication and subtitle** if any, as it appears on the title page; in italics and capitalised.
3. **(Edition, if other than first Publication Year)** in round brackets
4. **Pinpoint**. page number - if applicable

Format for a Book

Author, *Title* (**Edition, Year**) **Pinpoint** .

Examples

Francis Trindade and Peter Cane, *The Law of Torts in Australia* (3rd ed, 1999).

Ian Brownlie, *Principles of Public International Law* (5th ed, 1998) 135.

Butterworths, *Australian Corporations Legislation* (2002) 1752.

■ FOR INTERNET MATERIALS

Only cite material as an Internet document if:

- the document is not accessible in published form
- the information necessary for it to be cited as a published document is not available.

The **basic form** follows the principles listed for print sources (see above). Not all the information is always available.

1. **Author/s**, full name/s, if available
2. **Title** of the document, in italics and capitalised
3. **(Year)** in brackets
4. **Website name** if the author of the document is the same as the website name, do not include the website name
5. **Pinpoint** if any; if to a paragraph, it should be in square brackets

6. <Uniform Resource Locator> (URL) enclosed within < >; if the full URL appears cumbersome and is easily located from a general website, use the URL for the general website
7. **Date of Retrieval** preceded by 'at'

Format for Internet Material

Author , Document title (Year) Website name [Pinpoint]< URL > at Date of retrieval .

Examples:

Eddie Micallef, *Safe Injection Facilities: Should Victoria Have a SIF Pilot-Trial?* (1998) Drug Policy Alliance <<http://www.lindesmith.org/library/micallef.html>> at 31 July 2002.

Australian Labor Party, *2000 Platform and Constitution* (2000) [21] <http://www.alp.org.au/dload/federal/platform/platform_2000.pdf> at 31 January 2002.

ATSIC, *Issues – Law and Justice – Mandatory Sentencing* <<http://www.atsic.gov.au>> at 7 August 2002.

John Corcoran, *Timor, Tampa and Technology* (2001) Law Institute of Victoria <<http://www.liv.asn.au/news/president/20011129.html>> at 2 December 2001.



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Library's Web Page ~
<http://www.library.uq.edu.au/>

May 2006