FirstPoint is a case citator and annotator covering Australian law reports and unreported decisions of all Australian jurisdictions. And with more law reports available on Lawbook Online, you can easily link to the full-text of many reported decisions.

**Please note:** use Internet Explorer to access all search functions

**Accessing FirstPoint**

- Go to the Library Homepage at [www.flinders.edu.au/library](http://www.flinders.edu.au/library)
- Click on Databases (under Finding)
- Click on F and then on FirstPoint

If you are accessing from off-campus, you will need to type in your Flinders University barcode OR your email name and password when requested.

**Searching**

There are a number of different ways to search, depending on what you are looking for. The three main searches are:

1. You want to find cases on a particular **subject** area
2. You want the details of a **particular case**
3. You want to find cases that have **cited a particular piece of legislation**

**Tips:**

- Use broad subject areas as your keywords. Remember, you are not searching the full-text of a case, only some catchwords and a brief summary. So, start general and only try more narrow terms if you get too many results.
- You don’t need to use AND between your keywords as FirstPoint assumes you want to search for all terms entered.
Tips (cont.):
- An exclamation mark (!) will find any number of characters after the !. e.g. judg! will retrieve judge, judges, judgments, etc.
- Click on the name of the search field for more search tips
- You can **limit** your search by jurisdiction, court, judgment date and judge – try removing these if you find no results

Browsing

FirstPoint has a handy browse feature, where you can easily view cases on a topic. Simply look for the broad subject area in the list given on the left-hand side of the page. Click on the + symbol to see more specific sub-headings.

Viewing results

The results will look like this, with the case name, citation details, court listed. This is followed by the subject areas for the case which will give you an idea of its relevance.

Click on the case name to see the full record
Viewing details of a case

Each record gives the above information, and will often include detailed digest information – a summary of the legal principles applied. FirstPoint also provides details of cases and legislation referred to in the case, plus details of later cases and articles that have referred to the case.

Tables of cases

There are 2 tables of cases given for each case record...

1. Cases citing
   This table tells you how subsequent cases have used the legal principles applied and decisions made in the primary case. This is the information you refer to when updating a case.
   Refer to the Status Symbol Guide for details about the meaning of each annotation.

2. Cases cited
   This table tells you which cases were referred to by the primary case and how it was used.
   To see what each annotation means, refer to the Status Symbol Guide – click on the ‘Help’ link to find this guide.