Legal encyclopaedia
Halsbury’s
Laws of Australia

Why use Halsbury’s?

- **Comprehensive** coverage of all areas of Australian law
- Learn of **legal principles** and elements to establish
- Find references to **major case law** and **key legislation**

Tip:
It can be useful to consult both *Halsbury’s* and *Laws of Australia*, as coverage on different topics can vary and each is updated at different times.

How to access Halsbury’s

- Go to the Library homepage at [www.flinders.edu.au/library](http://www.flinders.edu.au/library)
- Click on **Databases** (under **Finding**)
- Type in Halsbury’s and click on the title

How information is organised

Information is organised into 89 subject related **‘titles’** – these are broad categories of law such as contract, constitutional, contract law, etc.

These titles are divided into more specific **‘chapters’** – for example, for criminal law there are chapters on liability, assault, sentencing, etc.

Each chapter has a number of **‘paragraphs’** that provide the details about the law
There are a number of different ways to search Halsbury’s depending on what you are looking for. The 3 main types of searches are:

1. You want to find information on a particular **subject**
2. You want to find references to a piece or section of **legislation**
3. You want to find references to a particular **case**

- **1. Enter search terms here**

- **2. Type the Act w/p section into the References to legislation box**

- **3. Type the case name or citation into the References to cases box**

☐ **Use boolean connectors** (AND, OR, etc) between your search terms – otherwise Halsbury’s will read your keywords as a phrase

☐ **Use w/n** to give results with your terms within ‘n’ number of words of each other e.g. multiple w/3 causes will pick up both ‘multiple causes’ and ‘multiple sufficient causes’. This is useful when you’re unsure of the exact terminology used.

☐ **Use !** to find different variations of a word
The results list gives the title of the paragraph and a brief snapshot of the commentary with search terms highlighted. It also tells you the **Source** and **Location** (ie ‘title’ and ‘chapter’), which can help in identifying relevant commentary. Click on the title of the paragraph you wish to read.

**Tip:** Choose to sort results by relevance

You can also **browse Halsbury’s** as you would a print table of contents

1. Click on **Browse**
2. Scroll through the list for the ‘title’ that encompasses the area of law you are interested in
3. Click on the plus symbol to see more specific ‘chapters’
4. Then, click on the link to view commentary on the topic

**To search or browse...**

Searching is useful when you are not sure how the concept you are interested in would be categorised. But you can get a lot of irrelevant hits if the concept is quite broad, or no hits if you use different terminology. In such instances, browsing is a useful option.
Remember to update!
Be sure to check the “Current to” date, given just above the text of the commentary – legal encyclopaedias give details of the law as at a specific point in time and you may need to update the primary sources cited to ensure the legal principles are still current.

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