

system. It begins by surveying sentencing theory, observing that a broad range of philosophies and concepts influence sentencing, and identifying the dominant aims of deterrence, rehabilitation, retribution, incapacitation and so on. The law of sentencing practice and procedure is also detailed, and importantly, a discussion of mandatory sentencing is additionally afforded. The chapter ends with an examination of penal law, which incorporates various reviews of corrective services.

*The Criminal Codes* is ultimately a highly successful text. It is clearly written, aptly structured and thematically arranged, and its visual design enhances its accessibility. The importance of contextual analyses of criminal law is well illustrated, and the authors' emphasis on such critique is most welcome in the areas of consent, sexual offences, provocation, self-defence, and constructions of criminal behaviour. Although *The Criminal Codes* appears to be essentially designed for students in Western Australia and Queensland, it is suggested that its applicability is not limited to this audience. In particular, both students in remaining code jurisdictions and academics may find it beneficial. More generally, the text is also recommended to students outside Western Australia and Queensland who wish to gain an understanding of criminal law, and the vital contextual issues it encompasses, beyond the jurisdiction in which they are studying.

*Emma Sundborn\**

## **Legal Research Manual**

**Andrew D Mitchell and Tania Voon**

**LBC Information Services, 2000, pp 159, \$52.00 (Inc GST)**

For both students and practitioners finding out whether a case has been overruled, or if a legislative provision has been amended or repealed can make a huge difference in the assignment you write or the advice given to a client. However, for many people legal research is a time consuming and confusing process, which more often ends in frustration than success. In their text *Legal Research Manual*, Mitchell and Voon attempt to demystify the intricacies of the legal research process and provide the reader with a simple and straightforward introduction to research techniques and products.

This book is not designed to turn the reader into a research expert but rather aims to show them good basic research skills. The authors

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did not intend this text to be a comprehensive guide to all means and methods instead they have concentrated on the most common research tools and products as used in Australia. From this basis it is the aim of the authors that the reader will be able to master more advanced techniques and learn about new resources.

The Manual is set out in a highly readable and logical style. The first chapter introduces the reader to the legal research process. This section of the text takes the reader through the basic steps needed to research a legal question and provides illustrative examples of how to undertake a search on this point. The following chapter then provides the reader with a description of the most commonly used research products, again using examples as well as diagrams and screen captures from the internet to familiarise the reader with these tools. A rating system is provided and explained at the start of the chapter that grades each research product described on its ease of use, searching power, depth of information, hypertext links and frequency of updating. This useful inclusion allows the reader to see at a glance, which of the products is most suited to their level of skill and proficiency.

The remainder of the book, Chapters 3 to 6, is focused on utilising the products previously described to solve research questions involving cases, legislation, subordinate legislation or journal articles. For each of these the authors provide a range of techniques for performing the task undertaken using each of the different products available. In almost all situations a research task can be completed using a wide variety of research tools and products. The authors have not chosen to compile an exhaustive list of all the products or techniques the reader might wish to utilise but rather have chosen what they feel to be the easiest or most commonly used or effective tool for the research task at hand. For each product used in these chapters the authors provide the reader with a number of approaches using different mediums: paper, CD-ROM, or on-line versions.

The Manual has been written in a very easy to read format, with step-by-step directions for each research product. The authors' use of examples using screen captures from the CD-ROMs and internet are a useful way of enabling the reader to familiarise themselves with the products. As an introduction to the field of legal research this text provides the reader with a solid base from which to develop their skills. The bullet point format is both clear and concise, enabling the researcher to find what they need quickly and easily without having to wade through huge amounts of written material. In an age where technology is rapidly making the job of the researcher both simple

yet at the same time more complex this text provides the inexperienced researcher with a handy and easily accessible quick reference guide to the main research tools and techniques used in this country.

*Rachel Butwell\**

### **Outline of Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law**

**Anne Hurley and Graeme Wiffen**

**Second Edition, Butterworths, 1999, pp 363, \$65**

Trade Practices has become one of the most commonly utilised bodies of law in this country in recent years and a significant volume of case law has evolved dealing with the provisions of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* (Cth). This Act has itself been the subject of frequent scrutiny and amendment as government policy has shifted and changed since its enactment. The first edition of *Outline of Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law* by Hurley and Wiffen considered the effects of the recommendations of several of the early review committees: the Swanson, Griffiths and Cooney Committees having particular effect. In this new edition the authors highlight the importance of the Hilmer Committee as the most significant of the Committees to have considered the Act and attempt to lead the reader through the changes that it has brought about.

The most significant of the reforms recommended by the Committee covered by this text are the amendments to the restrictive trade practices provisions of the Act and the restructuring of Australia's competition policy. Both of these changes are examined in some detail by the authors.

The aim of the authors of this text is to provide a comprehensive introduction to the contents and operation of the Act. The reader is taken through a brief introduction to the background and policy context in which the Act was created and continues to operate today, as well as an outline of the administrative framework of the Act.

Most of the text deals with an explanation of the substantive and procedural provisions of the Act and the judicial interpretations of these that have been developed by the courts. Further, the authors contextualise these developments by taking note of the policy reasons which prompted and shaped these developments.

The authors present a highly readable and informed discussion relating to both the original two-part focus of the Act on restrictive trade

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