

Legislation research tasks

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Find the current version of an Act

Search Google	Search for the title of the Act and jurisdiction. DO NOT choose a PDF option from the results – instead, open the result from the legislation website for the jurisdiction (e.g. legislation.sa.gov.au). This will take you to a homepage for the Act, where you should have the option to open a current or historical version, and an authorised version.
(SA) South Australian Legislation	Search or browse by title. Authorised versions available.

(Cth) Federal Register of Legislation	Search or browse by title. Authorised versions available.
AustLII	Select the jurisdiction. Choose 'Legislation', then 'Current Acts'. Browse by title. Check the Notes to identify when last updated.
Lexis+ Protégé	Not recommended (above options are more efficient).

Search for legislation on a topic

Legal encyclopaedias	Search by keyword. Refer to footnotes for references to legislation.
Law textbooks	Search for books using findit@flinders. Search or browse for relevant text. Refer to the text or footnotes for references to legislation.
Commentary services	Search Lexis+, Westlaw Australia or CCH iKnowConnect for a relevant commentary service. Search or browse. Refer to text or footnotes for references to legislation.
Lexis+ Protégé	For a legal term or principle: • Prompt for legislation relevant to the term or principle. • Select relevant jurisdiction. • Follow up with a new conversation that does not use legal terminology, to check for further authorities. For scenarios where the legal principles are unknown: • Provide the scenario and ask for relevant legislation. • Avoid using legal terminology. • Select relevant jurisdiction. Verify by: checking sources referenced; click on 'View related material'; cross-checking using another option listed above.
AustLII and legislation websites	Not recommended (need to know the exact terminology used within legislation).

Find similar legislation from across Australian jurisdictions

Legal encyclopaedias	Search for the name of the known legislation. Look at the footnotes or surrounding paragraphs for references to similar Acts from other jurisdictions.
Law textbooks	Search for books using findit@flinders. Use the table of statutes to look for the known legislation. Refer to the text or footnotes for references to legislation.
Lexis+ Protégé	Use the following prompt: "I am interested in section [x] of the [Act name] [jurisdiction]. Find a provision with similar wording or intent from [other jurisdiction] legislation". Verify by: checking sources referenced; click on 'View related material'.

Search for information to help interpret an Act

(SA) Hansard > October 2007	1. Select 'Second Reading Search'. 2. Choose a date range. 3. Enter the name of the Bill in quotation marks.
(SA) Hansard < October 2007	1. Select 'Search'. 2. Enter the name of the Bill in quotation marks. 3. Choose a date range. 4. Sort results by 'Date - oldest first' - this allows you to track the progress of the debate.
(Cth) ParlInfo	1. Enter the name of the Bill in quotation marks. 2. Tick the box next to 'Bills and Legislation'. 3. Look for the [Bill Homepage] - this includes all relevant documents (e.g. EM, 2nd reading speech).
Lexis+ LawNow Legislation	1. Search or browse for the Act/section. 2. Click on 'View Legislation Citator'. 3. Follow links to annotated legislation, Halsbury's Laws of Australia or Commentary to find references to legislation.
Westlaw Australia Legislation	1. Search or browse for the Act/section. 2. Click on 'Citing References' > 'Secondary sources'. 3. Choose results from commentary services to find text and references to relevant primary sources.

Search for words and phrases defined in legislation

Australian Legal Words and Phrases	Can search or browse. Browsing may reveal alternate terms.
Lexis+ Protégé	Use the following prompt: "Find where the phrase "[x]" has been defined in legislation in [jurisdiction]". Verify by: checking sources referenced; click on 'View related material'.

Search for cases that refer to or judicially consider an Act

CaseBase Cases	Enter relevant details in the following search boxes: • Legislation Title (include the year, not the jurisdiction) • Provision Number
Westlaw Australia Cases	Choose the Advanced search. Enter relevant details in the following search boxes: • Legislation Cited (Title) • Legislation Cited (Provision)
AustLII	1. Locate the current Act 2. Choose the relevant section (if applicable) 3. Click on 'NoteUp references' 4. Sort by: • Citation frequency to find most recently cited cases. • Database to find cases from specific courts and tribunals • Date to find most recent cases.
Lexis+ Protégé	To find cases that explain or discuss or interpret the section, try the following prompts: • "I need to interpret section [x] of the [Act name (jurisdiction)]. Find cases from [jurisdiction] the discuss or explain this section." • Find cases from other jurisdictions that consider similar wording to that used in section [x] of the [Act name (jurisdiction)]. To find cases that have applied the section, try the following prompt: "Find cases that have applied or referred to section

	[x] of the [Act name (jurisdiction)]. Indicate if you want cases from a particular court or jurisdiction. Verify by: checking sources referenced; click on 'View related material'; cross-checking using another option listed above.
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Find Acts as made (sessional, numbered Acts)

(SA) South Australian Legislation	1. Select to browse 'Acts'. 2. Select 'As made Acts'.
(Cth) Federal Register of Legislation	1. Click the 'Browse' tab. 2. Under 'Collection', leave the default as 'Act'. 3. Under 'Browse by', choose 'Year/Number'.
AustLII	1. Select the jurisdiction. 2. Choose 'Legislation'. 3. Choose 'Numbered Acts'.
Lexis+ Protégé	Not recommended (above options are more efficient).

Find commencement dates

Find the current version of the Act (as detailed above).

Check the legislative history for a commencement date.

If a commencement date is not listed, check the commencement section of the Act. It may indicate that the Act will commence:

- On a date specified in the Act.
- On royal assent.
Check the Government Gazette or an index to Bills to find the date of royal assent.
- A date to be fixed by proclamation.
Check the Government Gazette or proclamation list to find this date.

If no commencement date is specified, check the provisions that regulate commencement under the *Acts Interpretation Act* of the jurisdiction.

Check how an Act applied at a specific point in time (backdating)

(SA) South Australian Legislation	1. Find the current Act. 2. Look at the list of 'Historical' versions.
(Cth) Federal Register of Legislation	1. Find the current Act. 2. Click on 'All versions'.
Relevant government or parliamentary legislation website	Follow similar steps to above.
Lexis+ Protégé	Not recommended (it is more difficult to refine request and validate than the above options).

Find a bill (where title is known)

(SA) South Australian Legislation	Select to browse 'Bills'.
(Cth) Parliament of Australia: Bills	
AustLII	1. Select the jurisdiction 2. Choose 'Legislation' 3. Choose 'Bills'
Lexis+ Protégé	Not recommended (above options are more efficient).

Identify Bills that seek to amend an Act

(SA) South Australian Legislation	1. Search for the name of the Act in quotation marks. 2. Filter results to 'Bills' 3. Filter results to 'Bills (current session)'
(SA) Index to Bills	Browse the list of Bills before Parliament.
(Cth) ParlInfo	1. Enter the name of the Act in quotation marks. 2. Tick the box next to 'Bills and Legislation'.
AustLII	1. Select the jurisdiction 2. Choose 'Legislation' 3. Choose 'Bills' 4. Enter the name of the Act in quotation marks.

Lexis+ LawNow Legislation	Search or browse for the Act. A note will appear at the top of the screen indicating if that Act might be affected by a Bill – a link to the Bill is provided.
Lexis+ Protégé	Not recommended (responses tend to focus on Acts, rather than Bills. Above options are more efficient). The General AI (using LexisNexis and web content) works a little better, but would still require verification via the above options. Verify by: checking sources referenced; click on 'View related material'; cross-checking using another option listed above

Identify and track Bills currently before Parliament

(SA) Index to Bills	Browse the lists for both the House of Assembly and Legislative Council.
(SA) SA Legislative Tracking	Browse or search.
(Cth) Bills lists	
(Cth) ParlInfo	1. Enter the name of the Bill in quotation marks. 2. Tick the box next to 'Bills and Legislation'. 3. Look for the result that includes [Bill Homepage] – this includes tracking information.

Find delegated legislation (where title is known)

(SA) South Australian Legislation	1. Click on 'Regulations and Rules'. 2. Browse or search by title.
(Cth) Federal Register of Legislation	Search for the title. Can filter by 'Legislative instrument'.
AustLII	1. Select the jurisdiction. 2. Choose 'Legislation', then 'Current Regulations'. 3. Browse by title.
Lexis+ Protégé	Not recommended (above options are more efficient).

Search for delegated legislation

Find the current Act as detailed above.	Look for a list or link to a list of delegated legislation.
(SA) South Australian Legislation	Search or browse by title – look at the list of subordinate legislation. Please note: this list only includes delegated legislation made by government bodies. If another body has been granted power to make delegated legislation, check the website of that body.
(Cth) Federal Register of Legislation	Search or browse by title – click on 'Authorises'.
Lexis+ Protégé	Not recommended (above options are more efficient).