

INTERNET

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AUSTRALIAN CASE LAW ON THE INTERNET

When searching for Australian case law one finds that most links lead to AustLII. However, SCALEplus also provides access to High Court and Supreme Court cases (except for Western Australia), and covers some Commonwealth courts. AustLII offers access to more courts than SCALEplus but sometimes SCALEplus offers better coverage of cases from particular courts. For example, AustLII covers the Defence Force Discipline Appeal Tribunal cases from 1999 onwards whereas SCALEplus offers coverage from 1986 onwards (currently 13 cases). AustLII (<http://www.austlii.edu.au>) and SCALEplus (<http://scaleplus.law.gov.au>) are the first places to check but not always the only sites worth checking for free access to full-text cases.

Many of the sites which claim to have case law merely link to the relevant page on

AustLII or SCALEplus. However, New South Wales and Queensland have set up their own case databases. For New South Wales, LawLink at <http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/> should be bookmarked. Select 'Caselaw NSW' from the menu and you will be able to access cases held in NSW courts from 1999 onwards. The Queensland Courts web site <http://www.courts.qld.gov.au/qjudgment/default.htm> provides Queensland case law from January 2000 in pdf. The Queensland Law Society Inc. web site provides links to all three main resources for Queensland case law: AustLII, SCALEplus and the Queensland Courts. The Society's web site is at <http://www.qld.com.au/library/links.htm#qld-case>.

The following table lists Australian case law which is currently available via Internet sites. Commercial sites are not listed as not everyone will have access to them. The URLs will take you straight to the case law section of that web site, except for LawLink and the Queensland Courts URLs which will take you to the list of courts. There is such variability in what is available that I cannot make meaningful generalisations beyond recommending that if the case you want is not a Commonwealth or Supreme Court case, check the table and go straight to the case.

CASE LAW	AUSTLIJ	SCALEPLUS	OTHER WEBSITES
COMMONWEALTH			
High Court of Australia	1947 –	1947 –	
Administrative Appeals Tribunal	1976 –	1976 –	
Australian Competition Tribunal	1997 –		
Australian Designs Offices	1983 –		
Australian Industrial Relations Commission	1988 –		
Australian Patent Offices	1981 –		
Australian Trade Marks Offices	1991 –		
Copyright Tribunal	1997 –		
Defence Force Discipline Appeal Tribunal	1999 –	1986 –	
Family Court of Australia	1988 –	1988 –	http://www.familycourt.gov.au/html/2001.html 1998 –
Federal Court of Australia	1977 –	1976 –	
Federal Magistrates Court		2000 –	http://www.fms.gov.au/judge/index.html 2000 –
Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission	1985 –		
DDA (Disability Discrimination Act 1992)		1994 – [DDA]	
RDA (Racial Discrimination Act 1975)		1987 – [RDA]	
SDA (Sex Discrimination Act 1984)		1985 – [SDA]	
Immigration Review Tribunal	1990 –	1990 –	
Industrial Relations Court of Australia	1994 –	1994 –	
Migration Review Tribunal	1999 –	1999 –	
National Native Title Tribunal	1994 –	1994 –	
Refugee Review Tribunal	1993 –	1993 –	
Superannuation Complaints Tribunal		1995 –	
ACT			
Supreme Court	1986 –	1987 –	
Administrative Appeals Tribunal	1996 –		
Residential Tenancies Tribunal	1998 –		
NSW			
Supreme Court	1824 – 1832, 1995 –	1995 –	http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/caselaw/caselaw.nsf/pages/index 1999 –
Supreme Court – Court of Appeal	1999 –		http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/caselaw/caselaw.nsf/pages/index 1999 –

CASE LAW	AUSTLII	SCALEPLUS	OTHER WEBSITES
Supreme Court – Court of Criminal Appeal Decisions	1999 –		http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/caselaw/caselaw.nsf/pages/index 1999 –
Administrative Decisions Tribunal	1999 –		http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/caselaw/caselaw.nsf/pages/index 1999 –
Chief Industrial Magistrate's Court	1998 –		
Community Services Appeals Tribunal	1998 –		
Compensation Court	1985 –		http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/caselaw/caselaw.nsf/pages/index 2001 –
Drug Court	1999 –		
Dust Diseases Tribunal	1989 –		http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/caselaw/caselaw.nsf/pages/index 2001 –
Fair Trading Tribunal			http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/caselaw/caselaw.nsf/pages/index 2001 –
Industrial Relations Commission	1985 –		http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/caselaw/caselaw.nsf/pages/index 2000 –
Land and Environment Court	1988 –		http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/caselaw/caselaw.nsf/pages/index 1999 –
Office of State Revenue Rulings	1985 –		
Residential Tenancies Tribunal	1986 –		
Strata Schemes Board	1997 –		
NT			
Supreme Court	1986 –	1987 –	
Supreme Court – Court of Criminal Appeal	2000 –		
Anti-Discrimination Commission	1995 –		
QLD			
Supreme Court	1998 –	1993 –	
Supreme Court – Court of Appeal	1998 –		http://www.courts.qld.gov.au/qjudgment/default.htm 2000 –
Supreme Court: Trial Division			http://www.courts.qld.gov.au/qjudgment/default.htm 2000 –
Anti-Discrimination Tribunal	1999 –		
Building Tribunal	1996 –		
District Court	1999 –		http://www.courts.qld.gov.au/qjudgment/default.htm 2000 –
Health Practitioners Tribunal			http://www.courts.qld.gov.au/qjudgment/default.htm 2000 –
Industrial Court	1999 –		
Industrial Relations Commission	1999 –		
Office of the Information Commissioner	1993 –		http://www.siq.qld.gov.au/infocomm/listdec.html 1993 –

CASE LAW	AUSTLII	SCALEPLUS	OTHER WEBSITES
Land and Resources Tribunal Decisions			http://www.lrt.qld.gov.au/LRT/judgments/recent.asp Oct 2000 –
Liquor Appeals Tribunal			http://www.liquor.qld.gov.au/appeals/default.asp October 1992 –
Medical Assessment Tribunal			http://www.courts.qld.gov.au/qjudgment/default.htm 2000 –
Planning and Environment Court	1999 –		http://www.courts.qld.gov.au/qjudgment/default.htm 2000 –
SA			
Supreme Court	1989 –	1989 –	
District Court	1997 –		
Environmental Resources and Development Court	1997 –		
Industrial Relations Commission	1991 –		
Industrial Relations Court	1992 –		
Residential Tenancies Tribunal	1997 –		
Workers Compensation Appeal Tribunal	1991 –		
Workers Compensation Tribunal	1996 –		
TAS			
Supreme Court	1987 –	1987 –	
Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal	1996 –		
VIC			
Supreme Court	1998 –	1995 –	
Supreme Court – Court of Appeal	1997 –		
Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Decisions	1998 –		
County Courts decisions and rulings			http://www.countycourt.vic.gov.au/judindex.htm 1995 –
WA			
Supreme Court	1999 –		
Supreme Court – Court of Appeal	1999 –		
Industrial Relations Commission	1991 –		
Information Commissioner	1994 –		
NORFOLK ISLAND			
Supreme Court	1996 –		