



FACULTY OF
BUSINESS &
ECONOMICS

Helpsheet

Giblin Eunson Library

CITATION GUIDE: THE AUSTRALIAN GUIDE TO LEGAL CITATION (AGLC)

Use this sheet to help you:

- Follow the Australian Guide to Legal Citation (AGLC) referencing conventions
- Cite online sources using the AGLC style

Why cite?

It is imperative to acknowledge the sources of material that you have consulted when undertaking a piece of assessment for law subjects. Not only does this enable a subsequent reader to follow or verify facts with ease, but it may also avert plagiarism (see also *Plagiarism* helpsheet).

Often acknowledgement or citations are listed in footnotes, endnotes of a bibliography, and generally include information about primary and/or secondary material.

Broadly speaking, the following is a list of some common items of information that is required to prepare a citation:

- Title
- Author
- Book or Journal name
- Page numbers
- Publication information (including year, publisher and/or editor/s)
- URL details (if source is accessed via the internet), including date accessed

Types of sources: primary and secondary sources

Legal information sources are divided into two distinct categories.

Primary sources are the laws created by Parliament (i.e. Legislature) and the Courts:

- Statute Law (legislation)
- Case Law (common law)

Secondary sources provide explanations or descriptions of primary sources, and comprise:

- Books, Digests, Encyclopedias
- Journal articles, reports, commentary written by practitioners, academics and reform bodies.

Keep in mind that a number of source types exist which fall within either of the above mentioned categories. This helpsheet provides examples of some of the more common types of sources that students encounter when undertaking legal research.

Primary Sources

Cases

See AGLC Rule 2

Reported Judgments

Students should aim to cite from authorised law reports if available. For example, the Commonwealth Law Reports (CLR), Federal Court Reports (FCR) and Victorian Reports (VR), etc.

Broadly speaking, a reported case is a case that has been published in a law report series (this may be in print, online or both).

How do I cite?

- Law reports with sequential volume numbering

Part names	(Year)	Volume number	Law report abbreviation	First page	Cited page and/or [paragraph number]
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Example: *Hart v Federal Commissioner of Taxation* (2004) 217 CLR 216.

- Law reports with sequence organised by year rather than volume

Party names	[Year]	Volume number	Law report abbreviation	First page	Cited page and/or [paragraph number]
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Example: *R v Taudevin* [1996] 2 VR 402, 406 (Callaway JA).

Other examples:

R v Cooke (1985) 16 A Crim R 304.

Commissioner of Taxation v Kirk [1900] AC 588.

R v Portelli (2004) 10 VR 259.

Unreported Judgments

A case is unreported if it's not published in a law report series.

How do I cite?

Party names	[Year]	Court Abbreviation	Sequential judgement number	(Full date)
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Example: *R v Whyte* [2004] VSCA 5 (12 April 2004)

Statutes

See AGLC Rule 3.1

Acts

Short title	Year	(Jurisdiction)	Pinpoint reference
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Example: Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth) s 4B.

Bills

Short title	Year	(Jurisdiction)
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Example: Income Tax Rates Amendment (Temporary Flood Reconstruction Levy) Bill 2011 (Cth).

Treaties

See AGLC Rule 7

Treaty title	Parites names	Date opened for signature or signed	Treaty series	Date of entry into force
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Example: *Agreement between Australia and the European Community on Trade in Wine, and Protocol*, opened for signature 26-31 January 1994, ATS 1994 No. 6 (entered into force 1 March 1994).

Secondary Sources

Books

See AGLC Rule 5 and Rule 1.14.2

Author	Title	(Publisher, edition, year of publication)	Page	Paragraph or chapter reference
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Footnotes: First name, Last name

Bibliography: Last name, First name

Authored book

Example (1 author): Williams, George, *Human Rights Under the Australian Constitution* (Oxford University Press, 1999).

Example (more than 3 authors): Catriona Cook et al, *Laying Down the Law* (LexisNexis Butterworths, 7th ed, 2009) 280.

Edited book

Example: Kenyon, Andrew T., Richardson, Megan and Ricketson, Sam (eds), *Landmarks in Australian Intellectual Property Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2009).

Chapter in an edited book

Example: Morgan, F., 'The Extent and Location of Crime', in Goldsmith, Andrew, Israel, Mark and Daly, Kathleen (eds), *Crime and Justice: an Australian Textbook in Criminology* (Lawbook, 2nd ed, 2003), 11.

Journal articles

See AGLC Rule 4

Author	Title	(Year)	Volume	Journal Title	First page number of the article	Cited page
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Journal article with continuous voluming – use round brackets for the year

Example: Hinchliffe, Sarah, 'Escaping the Boundaries of the Law – Meta-Tags and what Lies Beneath?' (2012) 15(4) *Internet Law Bulletin* 70.

Journal article with no continuous voluming – use square brackets for the year

Example: Groves, Matthew and Campbell, Enid, 'Attacks on Judges Under Parliamentary Privilege: A Sorry Australian Episode' [2002] *Public Law* 626.

If paragraph numbers are available, these may be referred to and enclosed in square brackets.

Journal article only available on the internet (no print equivalent)

Example: Hinchliffe, Sarah, 'The Dawn of a New Age' (2008) 15(1) *eLaw Journal: Murdoch University Electronic Journal of Law* 43.

< http://elaw.murdoch.edu.au/archives/issues/2008/elaw_15_1_Hinchliffe.pdf>

Internet sources

See AGLC Rule 6.15

Author	Title	(Full date of last update)	Website name <URL>
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A Document published on the internet

Example: Board of Examiners, *Admission Requirements*, (18 February 2010), *Council of Legal Education* <<http://www.lawadmissions.vic.gov.au>>

Tip! Be careful when citing material from the internet, as a lot of it is unreliable for academic purposes. Students can often weaken the quality of their work through heavy reliance on online material.

Law reform agency reports

Name of law reform commission	Title	Report/discussion paper number	(Year)
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Example: Australian Law Reform Commission, *Designs*, Report No 74 (1995).

Legal encyclopaedias

Publisher	Title of encyclopedia	(at full date of last update)	Title number Name of title	'Chapter number Name of chapter'	[Paragraph number]
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Example: LexisNexis, *Halsbury's Laws of Australia*, (at 13 May 2008) vol 25 405 Taxation and Revenue, '2 Income and Assessable Income' [405-2000].

Footnotes

- See AGLC Rule 1.1 – 1.4
- Use footnotes for citations; not endnotes.
- Do not use 'id', 'op cit', 'supra', or 'infra'.
- Use 'ibid' (meaning 'the same') if the source and pinpoint reference in the immediately preceding footnote is the same source and pinpoint being cited in the current footnote.
- If the source being cited has been cited in an earlier footnote, but not in the footnote immediately preceding, then use the author's surname and 'above' to refer to that previous citation (e.g. Hinchliffe above n 2).

- When referring to a subsequent footnote, use 'below'.
- Put a full stop at the end of each footnote.

Bibliographies

- See Australian Guide to Legal Citation (3rd ed., 2010), Rule 1.16
- This usually appears at the end of a piece of work (e.g. assignment) to outline the references used or relied on to produce that work, whether cited in the footnotes or not.
- Where a bibliography is used, group or class items in alphabetical order under the following subheadings:
 - A. Articles / Books / Reports
 - B. Cases
 - C. Legislation
 - D. Treaties
 - E. Other