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FREE LEGAL RESOURCES

Curtin Library's subscription databases can only be used for study and research and not for commercial purposes. Whilst on placement there is an array of free legal resources you can use:

Commonwealth Legislation

Acts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Register of Legislation - 1901 to current. • AustLII - 1901 to current. • SAI Global Lawlex
Bills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Register of Legislation - 1996 to current. • Parliament of Australia - 1996 to current. • AustLII - 1981 to present (some historical also available).
Explanatory Memoranda (EM) EMs became standard practice from 1982 but not published online until 1996.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Register of Legislation – 1996 to current. Find the bill. If there is an EM available there will be an EM tab at the top of the screen. • Parliament of Australia - 1996 to current. Locate the Bill and the EM will be linked from this page. • Parliamentary Library Explanatory Memoranda Index – visit this page to find historical EMs prior to 1996. Please note: not all EMs will be available. • AustLII - EMs from 1959 however not all are available. • SAI Global Lawlex – search for the Act. If an EM is available it will be linked from this page.
Hansard / Second Reading Speeches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debates from the House of Representatives - 1901 to current. Use search option tabs at the top to assist you. • Debates from the Senate – 1901 to current. Use search option tabs at the top to assist you. • Second Reading Speeches for a Bill - 1971 to current. Search for the Bill using this Guided Search form. It will display Second Reading Speeches in the search results. • SAI Global Lawlex - search for the Act. If a second reading speech is available it will be linked from this page.
Gazettes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Register of Legislation - 2013 to current. • Historical gazettes -1901 to 2012.

Western Australian Legislation

Acts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliamentary Counsel's Office - 1832 to current. • AustLII – 1832 to current. • SAI Global Lawlex
Bills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliament of Western Australia - 1997 to current. • AustLII - 1998 to current.
Explanatory Memoranda (EM) EMs became standard practice in 2000.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliament of Western Australia - 2000 to current. Locate the Bill and the EM will be linked from this page. • Parliament of Western Australia – prior to 2000 (selected only). • AustLII - 1999 to current. • SAI Global Lawlex – search for the Act. If an EM is available it will be linked from this page.
Hansard / Second Reading Speeches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliament of Western Australia - 2000 to current. A Hansard archive (1870 – June 2000) is also available. • SAI Global Lawlex - search for the Act. If a second reading speech is available it will be linked from this page.
Gazettes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliamentary Counsel's Office - 1836 to current.

Legislation from other Australian jurisdictions:

Link to these government websites to find their Legislation, Bills and Subordinate Legislation:

- [Australian Capital Territory](#)
- [New South Wales](#)
- [Northern Territory](#)
- [Queensland](#)
- [South Australia](#)
- [Tasmania](#)
- [Victoria](#)

To find Explanatory Memoranda, Hansard and Second Reading Speeches, and Gazettes for these jurisdictions go to the relevant State Parliament website and/or try [AustLii](#) and [SAI Global Lawlex](#).

[GovPubs](#): produced by the National Library of Australia, this guides users in finding Commonwealth and State government publications. **Please note:** this database is no longer actively maintained by the National Library. However, the website states that updates do occur periodically.

[Legify](#): this free resource will link you to Australian Acts and Regulations (Commonwealth and State).

If you don't know the name of the legislation you want to find or you would like to locate legislation in a particular legal area you can use the following free resources:

- [AustLII](#)
- [SAI Global LawLex](#)
- [Jade Barnet](#)

Australian Case Law

AustLII	Unreported judgments from most Commonwealth and State courts and tribunals. Coverage will vary between courts and jurisdictions. Link to LawCite to use the free case citator.
Jade Barnet	Unreported judgments from most Commonwealth and State courts and tribunals. Coverage will vary between courts and jurisdictions. Jade also offers free RSS feeds.
Court Websites	Go to individual court websites for past judgments. Please note: archives are not extensive.

Treaties

Australian Government Treaty Database	Indexes full text bilateral and multilateral treaties to which Australia is a signatory, or where Australia has taken other treaty action.
AustLII: Australian Treaty Series	1901 to current. Includes Australian treaties not yet in force.
United Nations Treaty Series	A repository of multilateral treaties that have been deposited with the United Nations.
WorldLII: International Treaties Collection	Free access to multilateral and bilateral treaties from around the world. Coverage will vary between jurisdictions.

Law Reform

Commonwealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Law Reform Commission - search for inquiries and publications. • The AustLII: Australasian Law Reform Library – selected publications available.
Western Australia	Law Reform Commission of Western Australia – reports, discussion papers and annual reports available.

Secondary Sources

AustLII: Australian Legal Scholarship Library	Provides free access to over 150 law journals and legal scholarship databases.
SSRN : Social Science Research Network	Register for free to access Australian journal articles and research papers.
Google Scholar	Search for open access scholarly journal articles, books and even US case law. Please note: not all articles will be freely available and may ask you to pay.