

CaseBase

Find it at: www.lib.monash.edu.au/databases/

CaseBase contains:

- information about Australian and New Zealand reported and unreported cases
- information about cases from some Australian tribunals and commissions
- information about cases from some overseas courts where the case has been considered by an Australian court
- references to journal articles and case notes about Australian cases and legal issues.

Use CaseBase to find:

- the citation of a case
- links to the full-text judgment or law report if available on LexisNexis AU, eg VRs (Victorian Reports)
- case notes or journal articles written about a case
- subsequent cases that have referred to a case together with how each one has considered the case (eg Applied, Followed, Overruled)
- cases that have considered a legislative provision, eg. Trade Practices Act 1974 (Cth) s 52
- cases and journal articles on a particular legal issue or topic.

Tips:

- If searching using case names always combine using “**and**”, eg To find Smith v Jones, enter: Smith and Jones.
- If words are entered next to each other, eg trade practices, a phrase is assumed.
- Results can be resorted by Jurisdiction/Court and appear in hierarchical order, eg HCA first.
- Results can be viewed with catchwords to help determine relevance.
- To find out whether a case is still “good law” look at the section of the case record called Cases referring to this case to check whether the case has been overruled or reversed by a higher court. A coloured Signal system is used to flag the status of each case.
- Look under Journal articles referring to this case to find case notes or journal articles that discuss the case.
- Look at the Catchwords/Digest section of a result to determine legal principles considered in the case and use these for further searching.
- Click **Help** to find the meaning of abbreviations.

Look for similar information in:

- FirstPoint.

CaseBase looks like this:

The screenshot shows the LexisNexis CaseBase search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'LexisNexis' on the left and 'Start | Sign Out | Contact Us | Help' on the right. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with 'Search', 'Practice Areas', and 'Source Directory' tabs. Under 'Search', there are sub-tabs for 'Home', 'Cases', 'Legislation', 'Commentary', 'Forms', 'Journals', 'Dictionaries', and 'Services'. The main search area is titled 'CaseBase' and contains several input fields: 'Search Terms' (with a search button), 'Sources' (set to 'CaseBase Cases'), 'Case/Article Name' (with 'mabo and queensland' entered), 'Citation', 'Judgment Date' (set to 'All available dates'), 'Catchwords/Summary', 'Words & Phrases', 'Jurisdiction' (with checkboxes for 'All Australian Jurisdictions', 'Commonwealth', 'Australian Capital Territory', and 'New South Wales'), 'Court', 'Judge', and 'References to Legislation'. A 'Search' button is located at the bottom right of the main form. To the right of the search area, there are three sidebar sections: 'Terms and Conditions' (with a link to 'Terms and Conditions'), 'Cases Search Forms' (with a list of search options like 'Cases', 'CaseBase', 'Australian Current Law - Reporter', etc.), and 'Related Links' (with 'Useful links' and 'How do I...?' sections). At the bottom right of the page, there are links for 'Back to Top' and 'Clear Form'.

More help from the Library:

Visit www.lib.monash.edu.au/help/ or

- call +61 3 9905 5054 or 1800 331 194 (toll free outside Melbourne)
- go to ask.monash at ask.monash.edu.au
- ask at the information desk at your nearest library. Check hours and locations: www.lib.monash.edu.au/libraries/
- log in to online chat via the Library's website.