

AUSTLII MEDIA RELEASE



Australasian Legal Information Institute

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AUSTLII COMPLETES THE DIGITISATION OF THE SEMINAL CASE FILES OF THE HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA

On 26 March 2024 the Chief Justice of Australia, the Hon. Stephen Gageler AC, launched the 1,000th database of legal information resources to be made available on the AustLII service. This database was intended to contain the complete case files of some of the key cases of the High Court. The current justices of the Court have chosen 37 cases that they believe to be of seminal importance to the development of jurisprudence and to the history of Australia since Federation. When the database was launched it contained the documents of eight complete case files. AustLII's intention has been to complete the digitisation of the remaining cases as soon as possible. AustLII is proud to announce that this project is now complete. An index to all 37 cases is available at <http://austlii.edu.au/au/cases/cth/HCASCF/>.

The HCASCF database contains a variety of documents related to the 37 lead cases, together with relevant associated files of 31 other related cases (such as cases appealed from). There are 3,155 documents included in the database, totalling 72,039 pages. The details of the types of documents available are:

- Affidavits with exhibits (912 items)
- Transcripts (533 items)
- Orders/Order Sheets (232 items)
- Submissions (367 items)
- Notices of motion (92 items)
- Reasons for Judgment (85 items)
- Statements of Claim (68 items)
- Lists of Authorities (23 items)
- Chamber summons (116 items)
- Bills of costs (38 items)
- Appeal book items (359 items)
- Maps (49 items)
- Photographs (60 items)

Now that the Seminal Case Files project is complete, the High Court has indicated that it supports AustLII adding more historical Court documents to its collection, should funding become available. These documents include Unreported Judgments of the High Court from 1921 to 2008 and High Court Transcripts from 1943 to 1995.

AustLII is grateful to the High Court of Australia for entrusting us with the digitisation of these important historical documents, and to allow us to make them available for free access to the Australian community. AustLII would welcome financial contributions from the community to support these valuable digitisation projects. Tax deductible donations may be made at <https://secure.austlii.edu.au/cgi-egate/contribute.cgi>

Since 1995, the Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII), has provided national legal research infrastructure that is fundamental to the operation of the legal system in Australia. AustLII provides a comprehensive and integrated national collection of legal information, enabling effective free and anonymous access to all Australian law. As a global leader in the provision of free access to legal information, AustLII also has an international role in supporting the rule of law and free access globally. AustLII has added a new database to its collection on average every 10 days since its inception. They include databases of legislation and related material; case law decisions and judgments; treaties and related international instruments; journal articles and scholarship; as well as other legal and quasi-legal resources including law reform, royal commissions and boards of inquiry, coronial findings, and indigenous legal resources from Australia and New Zealand. AustLII's broad public policy agenda is to improve access to justice through better access to information.

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