

Case Law – How to search for...

- [Find cases where you have the full citation details](#)
- [Find cases where you have the party names](#)
- [Find cases where you have popular case names](#)
- [Major / leading cases on a legal issue](#)
- [Cases on a legal issue](#)
- [Cases with similar facts](#)
- [Cases that cite an earlier case](#) (noting up)
- [Legislation judicially considered](#) (cases that refer to an Act)
- [Cases that consider a word or a phrase](#)
- [Journal articles about a case / case notes](#)

Task	Resources	Tips
Find cases where you have the full citation details.	Find that Case@Flinders	<p>Search for the abbreviation from the citation. e.g. if the citation is Mabo v Queensland (No 2) (1992) 175 CLR 1, you would just search for 'CLR'</p> <p>You will then see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a quick link to the resource online • directions as to where you can find the resource in the Law Library
<p>Find cases where you have party names.</p> <p>If you only have the names of the parties involved in a case.</p>	CaseBase	<p>Type the party names into the 'Case/Article Name' box. Use 'and' between the names, instead of 'v'.</p> <p>You can then use the citation details you find to search Find that Case@Flinders</p>

	FirstPoint	<p>Type the party names into 'Case Title/Party Name' box. Don't need to include 'v' between the names.</p> <p>You can then use the citation details you find to search Find that Case@Flinders</p>
	Encyclopaedic Australian legal dictionary	<p>Location Number: Online</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Click on 'Legal Dictionary – Tables & Appendices' • Click on 'Table of Popular Australian Case Names'
<p>Find cases where you have popular case names.</p> <p>If you only have a few brief details of a case, such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a few facts • a date • a court or judge • etc 	CaseBase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type the popular name into the 'Case/Article Name' box. • Select a date range • Select the jurisdiction and/or court • Type the name of the judge into the 'Judge(s)' search box <p>You can then use the citation details you find to search Find that Case@Flinders</p>
	FirstPoint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type the popular name into 'Case Title/Party Name' box. • Select a date range • Select the jurisdiction and/or court • Type the name of the judge into the 'Judge(s)' search box <p>You can then use the citation details you find to search Find that Case@Flinders</p>
	Encyclopaedic Australian legal dictionary	<p>Location Number: Online</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Click on 'Legal Dictionary – Tables & Appendices' • Click on 'Table of Popular Australian Case Names'

Search for major / leading cases on a legal issue	Use secondary sources	* books * legal encyclopaedias * commentary services
Search for cases on a legal issue	Secondary sources (as listed above)	Use these to find major or leading cases Then note up these cases using CaseBase and/or FirstPoint (see below for details)
	CaseBase	Use 'contains text' box to find keywords mentioned in the catchwords and summary of the case Use 'Catchwords' to find cases specifically on point Can sort results by 'Relevance' to list highly cited cases first
	FirstPoint	Use 'Case Summary/Digest' to find keywords mentioned in the summary of the case Use 'Catchwords' to find cases specifically on point Browse through the subject list on the left of the screen Can sort results by 'Relevance' to list highly cited cases first
	AustLII	Sort result by 'citation frequency' to see more significant cases listed first
Search for cases with similar facts	AustLII	Search the full text of judgments, where facts are described in more detail. Preferable over case digests (CaseBase and FirstPoint) which provide limited facts
Search for cases that cite an earlier case (noting up)	CaseBase	Search for the case by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • typing the party names into the 'Case/Article Name' box • typing the citation into the 'Citation' box <p>Look at the signal next to the case name This indicates the status of the case - whether it has been treated positively, with caution or negatively</p> <p>Click on 'Signal Help' for info</p> <p>Look at the table of 'Cases referring to this case' The annotation describes how the case was used by the later case. These annotations are defined under 'CaseBase annotations' from the 'Help' link</p>

	FirstPoint	<p>Search for cases by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • typing the party names into the 'Case Titles/Party Name' box • typing the citation into the 'Citation' box <p>Look at the symbol next to the case name This indicates the status of the case - whether it has been treated positively, with caution or negatively</p> <p>Look at the 'Case Status Symbol' User Guide for info</p> <p>Click on 'Case citing' The annotations describes how the case was used by the later case. These annotations are defined in the 'Cases Status Symbol' guide</p>
	AustLII	<p>Click on 'Noteup' - this lists cases in AusLII that refer to the case.</p> <p>No annotation is given, so you need to read each case to see how the earlier case was used</p>
Search for legislation judicially considered	CaseBase	<p>Use the 'Act/Regulation' box</p> <p>Use w/p to include the jurisdiction (e.g. civil liability w/p sa)</p>
	FirstPoint	<p>Use the 'Legislation Cited' box</p> <p>Use * to search for all subsections (e.g. 31*)</p>
	AustLII	<p>Use the 'Noteup' link from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * the Act homepage, OR * the individual section
Search for cases that consider a word or a phrase	CaseBase	Use the 'Words and Phrases' search box
	FirstPoint	
Search for journal articles about a case / case notes	CaseBase	<p>Search for the case (see above)</p> <p>Look at the table of 'Journal articles' or "Publications referring to this case"</p> <p>Click 'Help' for a list of abbreviations and full titles</p>
	FirstPoint	<p>Search for the case (see above)</p> <p>Click on 'Noted in Journals'</p> <p>Look at the 'FirstPoint Table of Abbreviations' for full titles</p>

Team:	Learning & Teaching Library Services
Subject:	Law
Fact Sheet No.	1 of 2
Last Updated:	1 April 2021